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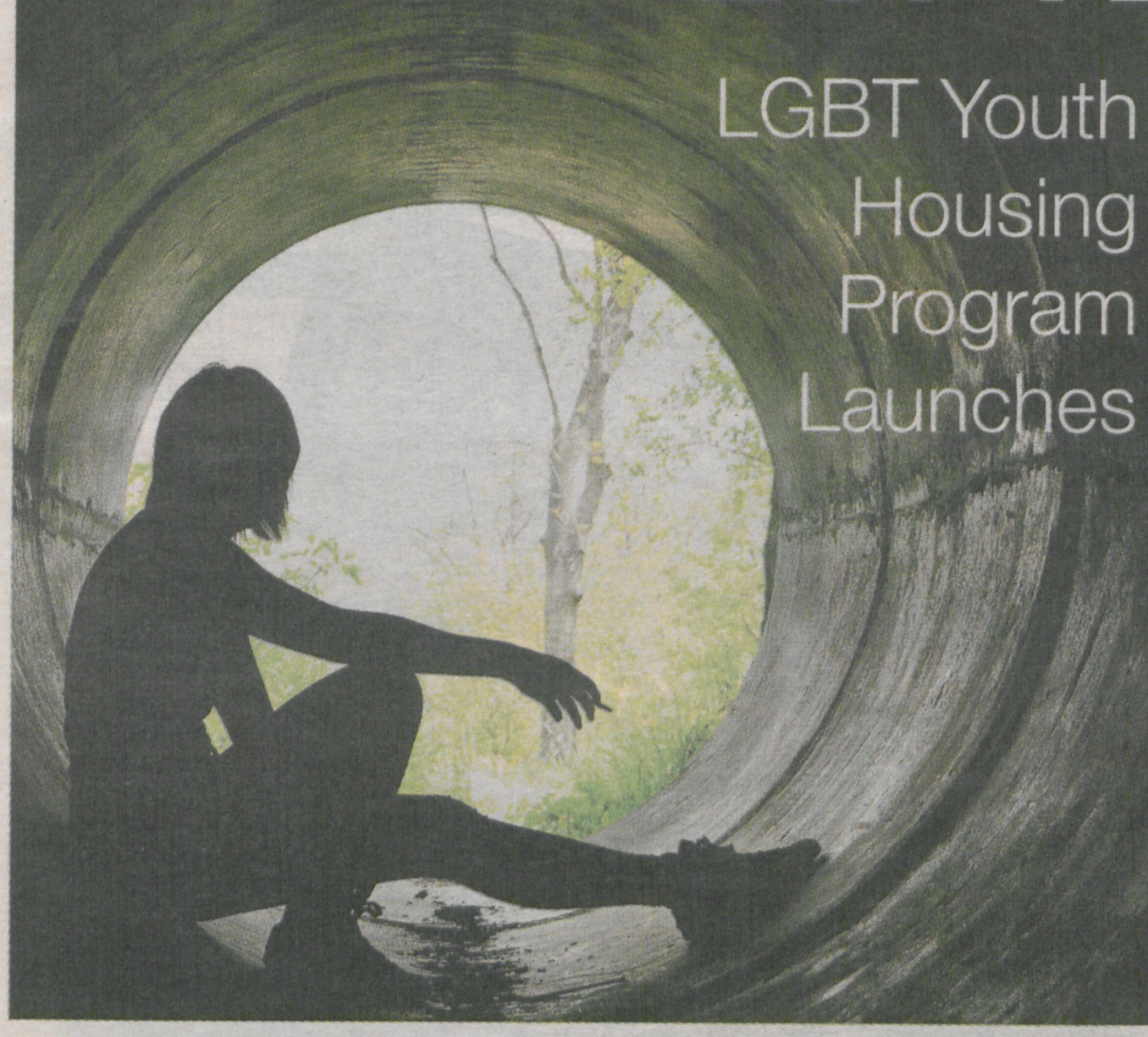
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

a safe horizon



LGBT Youth Housing Program Launches

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth account for up to 40% of homeless youth throughout the US. Many lgbt youth are forced or asked to leave their homes as a result of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Responding to community need, Alder Health Services has launched The Tree House at Alder Health, a homeless lgbt youth program.

Community members assembled July 22 at two separate community-based meetings to hear about the program's launch.

"Many young lgbt people are left with nowhere to turn and are living on the streets doing what they can to survive," says Donald Anklam, who recently joined Alder Health Services as director of The Tree House at Alder Health.

"With no place to live, with the possibility (or the reality) of losing family and friends and often without community support, homeless lgbt face tremendous challenges in their efforts to find their way, to access health and wellness services, to chart a course for their lives and to emerge as strong, productive leaders in our community," Anklam points out.

During the past year, Alder Health Services received multiple reports and requests from organizations working with homeless youth. The agency recognized the need in the community for services and support for homeless lgbt youth (18 to 24) in our region. "Homelessness has a tremendous impact on the short-term and long-term health of lgbt youth," Anklam says.

Acting on the reports, the agency has launched The Tree House at Alder Health.

In its infancy, the program will work to include shelter, support

Continued on page 16

Equality Forum: LGBT Civil Rights pg 11

ABCNews on Local Couple pg 13

Ex-Gay Pride Month Cancelled pg 22

"Stunned..."

By Frank Pizzoli

"We were stunned, overwhelmed by what Attorney General Kathleen Kane said about marriage equality," Julie Lobur told *Central Voice,* reflecting on her and Marla Cattermole's decision to legally challenge Pennsylvania's Defense of Marriage Act.

Kane said: "I cannot ethically defend the constitutionality of Pennsylvania's version of DOMA. I believe it to be wholly unconstitutional."

A Harrisburg couple, Lobur's partner of 28 years, Cattermole said,"...we'd like our relationship legally recognized." They are legally married in the state of Iowa. Pennsylvania law defines marriage as between one man and one woman and does not recognize same-sex marriages, or civil unions, performed in other states.

To say that Pennsylvania, and the 38 other states that do not recognize or ban same-sex marriages, are in free fall is an understatement.

June 26 the US Supreme Court decided the federal government's DOMA could not deny same-sex couples married in states with legalized gay marriage the same federal benefits available to other married couples under federal law. A deluge of lawsuits flowed.

Continued on page 16

Marla Cattermole and Julie Lobur are among 23 people challenging Pennsylvania's anti-same-sex marriage law in court. *Photo courtesy of ACLU-PA*

CENTRAL PA'S NEWEST
LGBT NIGHT LOUNGE
LUX
NIGHT LOUNGE
THURSDAY $10 BACARDI PITCHERS (DAILY SPECIAL)
FRIDAY $3 PINNACLE DRINKS (DAILY SPECIAL)
$3 SOCO SHOTS (9PM-11PM)
SATURDAY $3 THREE OLIVE DRINKS (DAILY SPECIAL)
SUNDAY $25 BUCKETS OF BEER WITH SHOTS
(4 BEERS/4 SHOTS) (8PM - 12AM)
$3 CINNAMON TOAST CRUNCH
(DAILY SPECIAL)
"Nightly Guest DJs"
OPEN THURSDAY - SUNDAY 8PM-2AM
LUX LOUNGE 1327 N DUKE ST. YORK PA

Political Update

Openly-Lesbian MD State Del. to Run for Governor

A General Assembly member since 2006, Maryland's Heather Mizeur (D-Montgomery County) is running for governor in 2014. She would make history as Maryland's first female governor and the country's first openly LGBT governor if voters elect her in 2014. Diversity is enormously important," she told the Washington Blade. "Not simply to have a gay governor, but to have a governor who can represent the voices of people in communities that have not always had a voice in the process." Mizeur said her approach to governing the state and her vision for Maryland is "about bringing people together and making everyone a stakeholder and creating solutions to the issues" it faces.

Boy Scouts: No Wearing Uniform In Pride Parades

Wearing a uniform in a pride parade or even a flag ceremony at a pride event is a "violation of the Scout Oath and Scout Law," official says. Advocates called the application of the "longstanding" policy uneven, citing candidates' events and other parades. In the June 24 memorandum obtained by BuzzFeed, Gary Butler, assistant chief scout executive for operations, told all scout executives and area and regional directors that "members of the BSA are not permitted to be endorsing a position or advancing a social issue while they are in uniform. From time to time, Scouts and leaders have been asked or encouraged to participate in flag ceremonies, parades, and other community events aimed at advocating for personal, social or political agendas," Butler said, warning that doing so in uniform is a "violation of the Scout Oath and Scout Law [and] a violation of BSA's rules and regulations. Participation in a Gay Pride parade or other similarly sponsored event would fall under this policy."

DC City Council Modernizes Birth Certificate Policy

Washington, DC City Council modernized its birth certificate policy making it clearer and easier for transgender people to change the gender on their birth certificate. The new policy drops surgical requirements to update ones' records and issues a new birth certificate instead of an amended one. The policy discontinues the need for transgender people get a court order by allowing people to go straight to the agency with a letter from a licensed health care provider. Additionally, the modernized policy allows non-residents of the District who were born in another state to get a court order from DC asking the vital records agency in their state of birth to update their birth certificate, if they need one.

John Hanger Calls for Marijuana Laws Reform

John Hanger, Democratic candidate for governor, has proposed a three-step reform of the state's marijuana laws to allow medical use of marijuana, reduce prison overcrowding, ameliorate racial discrimination in marijuana arrests, and, he says, save money. "I am calling for immediately allowing the use of marijuana for medical purposes, reducing the penalties for possessing small amounts of marijuana to a summary offense similar to a traffic ticket by 2015, and finally regulating and taxing marijuana use by 2017 if the previous reforms are successful and monitoring the experience in state that have legalized marijuana use," said Hanger. Nationally, in 2010, 46 percent of all drug arrests were for marijuana offenses and 88 percent of the marijuana arrests were for possession.

Lambda Legal Expands Transgender Rights Project

Lambda Legal has expanded its transgender rights advocacy, officially designating the organization's body of work as Lambda Legal's Transgender Rights Project, naming attorney Dru Levasseur project director, and launching a first-of-its-kind online and mobile hub called "Know Your Rights: Transgender."

Resource http://www.lambdalegal.org/kyr/transgender

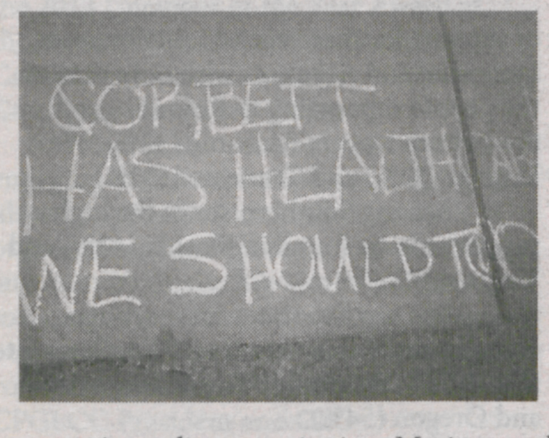
Local Activist AdanJesus Marin Arrested; Charges Dropped

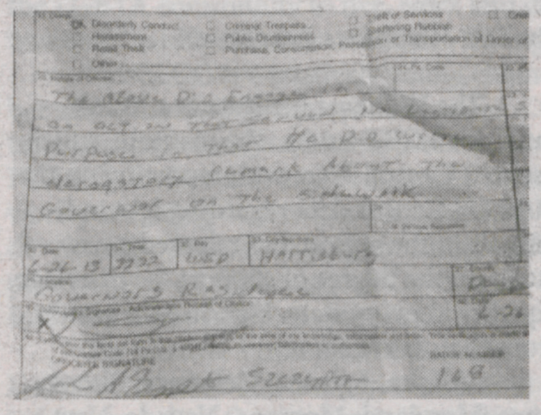
Against a backdrop of a judge ruling that a San Diego, CA man must stand trail on 13 counts of vandalism over anti-big bank messages written in water-soluble chalk outside Bank of America branches, local activist AdanJesus Marin was arrested for "chalking" a message to Gov. Tom Corbett. Eventually the charges were dropped.

Sean Kitchen of Raging Chicken Press reports on the conclusion to a protest at the state capitol that sought to pressure Gov. Tom Corbett to expand Medicaid under Obamacare:

Late last night, the demonstrators were escorted out of the capitol, and afterwards some of the demonstrators went back to governor's mansion to continue their demonstration. However, while at the governor's mansion, a health care activist -- AdanJesus Marin -- was arrested for "chalking" on a public sidewalk. According to his citation, he was arrested for writing a "derogatory remark about the governor on the sidewalk." The "derogatory" comment that AJ was arrested for stated: "Governor Corbett has health insurance, we should too."

Here's a photo of Marin's message, via Kitchen:





According to a citation, Marin was charged with "disorderly conduct."

Corbett announced in February that he wouldn't support expanding Medicaid rolls to at least 500,000 Pennsylvanians under President Barack Obama's health care law. Democrats have been seeking to find a path forward, however, with lawmakers in the state Senate currently working to craft a bipartisan piece of legislation to offer health care coverage to more low income residents.

While they continue to wrangle support for a Medicaid expansion bill, protesters have trickled to the state capitol to voice their support for the measure, which studies have shown would provide a significant boost to the state's GDP and employment numbers.

Marin is president of Equality PA's organization known as a c(4) responsible for advocacy, endorsements, electoral work and work on issues.

Bipartisan Campaign Launched to Pass Employment Non-Discrimination Act

A bipartisan campaign is expecting to spends $2 million to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act 19 years after its first introduction. The bill, many advocates, activists, and allies have pointed out, affects all lgbt individuals, unlike marriage equality which although necessary, touches only that portion of the community choosing marriage.

The bipartisan campaign, Americans for Workplace Opportunity, has hired Matt McTighe, a veteran strategist who most recently served as Marriage Project Director for Gill Action after winning the campaign to bring marriage equality to Maine, to serve as the campaign manager.

A majority of states lack laws protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from workplace bias and there is no federal law explicitly barring employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

"No one should be fired for who they are or who they love, and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act is a bipartisan, common-sense way to put those values into federal law," said McTighe. "Our campaign will mobilize the supermajority of diverse Americans who believe in workplace fairness and push Congress to act on ENDA this year."

The steering committee of Americans for Workplace Opportunity is comprised of American Civil Liberties Union, American Federation of Teachers, American Unity Fund, Human Rights Campaign, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, and the Service Employees International Union.

HARRISBURG HOPE - Mayoral Debate

WHAT: Harrisburg Hope & HACC Mayoral Debate
WHEN: Thurs., Oct. 3, 6 p.m.
WHERE: Cooper Student Center, 1 HACC Drive
Harrisburg Area Community College

CONFIRMED: Eric Papenfuse, Nevin Mindlin, and Nate Curtis

Join Harrisburg Hope and Harrisburg Area Community College Oct. 3, 6 p.m., for a Harrisburg mayoral candidate debate. Introduction by HACC president John Sygielski. Moderated by Harrisburg Hope president Alan Kennedy-Shaffer. Refreshments. Free. What will you ask the next mayor?

Central VOICE
Central to your life.

Publisher & Editor
Frank Pizzoli
PosOps@aol.com

Brad Gebhart, Cartoonist

Contributing Writers
Leo Dunn
Steve Dorko
Bill Krenz
Louie Marvin
Lewis Maurer
Debra Miller
Rev. Lori Rivera
Jeanine Ruhsam
Trum Simmons

Sales Manager
Dave Brown
davebrown@pressandjournal.com

Advertising Representative
Steve Kozokas
stevek@pressandjournal.com

National Advertising:
RIVENDELL MEDIA
212-242-6863

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Subscriptions/Distribution 717-944-4628
www.pandjinc.com
info@pressandjournal.com

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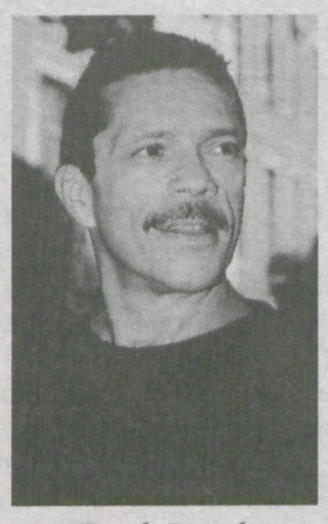
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESB AN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

publisher's note

MLK We Need Your Example



Frank Pizzoli

August 28 was the 50th Anniversary of the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Most of us mark the event as the day Martin Luther King Jr delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Adrian Shanker, one among other able gay rights advocates in the Lehigh Valley, and president of Equality PA, spoke at the anniversary gathering.

He told *Central Voice* that he was understandably "honored" to be included in the event.

Shanker is also ready to carry King's original message, especially the part about "jobs and freedom". In other words, although Don't Ask, Don't Tell and marriage equality are certainly important issues to segments of the lgbt community, there are other, broader issues that affect the gay community not concerned with the military or getting married.

Those other, broader issues concern jobs, immigration, and ending lgbt discrimination in the workplace. "There are issues, progressive issues, that are of concern not only to the lgbt community but to the community at large," Shanker said. In other words, as *Central Voice* has written several times before in this space and elsewhere: It's about policy, not people.

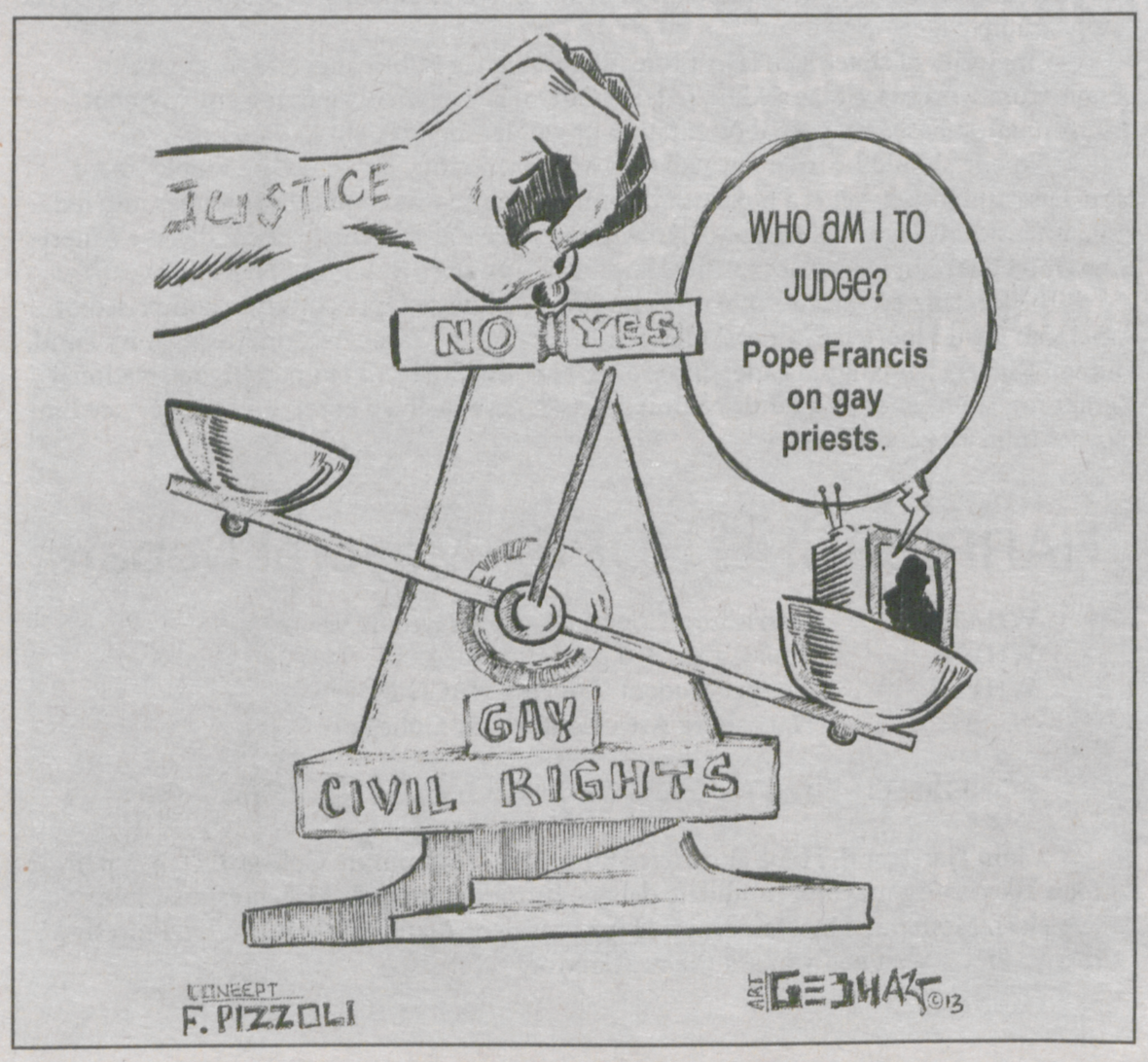
"While our country has seen great strides for civil and human rights in the last 50 years, we have much further to go before the dream Dr. King shared in 1963 will be realized, and I look forward to sharing my perspective at the march," Shanker said.

Shanker, of Bethlehem, led the campaign to have an anti-discrimination bill created in that city. He also pushed for Easton and Allentown to create domestic partnership benefits for city employees.

Inasmuch as King's words remain true for today's problems, Shanker and other lgbt organizations *Central Voice* will be talking to in the future, have set an example by reaching out to embrace social justice issues in addition to our community's special interests. After all, a low-paying job is a low-paying job that doesn't recognize workers sexuality. Lack of access to health care doesn't care who you love. Homelessness is cold and lonely for anyone without a roof over his or her head.

Adrian Shanker

Thank you, Adrian Shanker, for setting the tone for a larger conversation that assimilates the lgbt community into a bigger, more progressive political community. Our civil rights are important, no doubt, but let's also recognize the strength that comes from coalitions on issues that touch more people rather than issues that touch fewer people.



voice box

EXCELLENT
Excellent Publisher's column on financial cost-bearing. ("What Would a Manly-Man Do?" May-June 2013)
Robert Shaffer

GEM
Central Voice is the gem of the region! Your articles represent the lgbt community in a positive and realistic way yet you are so much more than "gay everything". You have a good sense of the community's other interests.
Jonathan, a Lancaster reader

ANTHONY SCALIA
Oh that US Supreme Court Justice Anthony Scalia. Has he ever had a good feeling about anything? At a recent Utah Bar Association gathering, Scalia opened his talk with a reference to the Holocaust, which happened to occur in a society that was, at the time, "the most advanced country in the world." One of the many mistakes that Germany made in the 1930s was that judges began to interpret the law in ways that reflected "the spirit of the age." When judges accept this sort of moral authority, as Scalia claims they're doing now in the U.S., they get themselves and society into trouble. Gay marriage anyone? Apparently Scalia is unaware of Godwin's Law, the internet aphorism holding that if a discussion goes on long enough, someone will inevitably compare whomever or whatever he dislikes to Nazi Germany or Hitler, at which point any useful debate is pretty much over and the person making the Nazi comparison automatically loses the argument.
A reader

E-mail your thoughts to Central VOICE posops@aol.com

Best & Worst States for Marriage Equality

By The Williams Institute

The Williams Institute is a "think tank" for LGBT issues. The institute, which assisted *Central Voice* with reporting on the 2010 US Census data regarding lgbt individuals in the region, has released a new study on the degree of support for marriage equality in every state. Here are the results from their latest survey:

-Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota are currently within five percentage points of majority support.

- Support for marriage equality has increased in every single state.

-In twelve states, the support for marriage equality is at or above 50%. -Another eight states will pass the 50% mark by the end of 2014.

-In the last eight years, every state has increased support for marriage equality by an average of 13.6%.

-There is a tie for the lowest level of support for marriage equality between Louisiana and Arkansas with only 31% of the people supporting it. Rounding out the bottom five are Alabama (32%), West Virgnia (32%) and Tennessee (32%)

-Among Southern states the highest support can be found in Florida (42%) and Virginia (43%).

-The top five states for marriage equality are Massachusetts (57%), Connecticut (57%), Vermont (54%), Hawaii (54%) and Oregon (54%).

-The report points out that: Finally, there are 10 states that have previously passed constitutional amendments to not introduce same-sex marriages that now have a majority or are within percentage points of a majority in favor same-sex marriage - Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. These states may be the future political are- nas where existing constitutional amendments may be repealed in order to perform marriages for same-sex couples in those states.

The 'No Citizen Input' Solution on City Debt

By Alan Kennedy-Shaffer

Harrisburg HOPE

Alan Kennedy-Shaffer
Central Voice photo

Like General William Lynch and most of this year's mayoral candidates, I am hopeful that our river city will rise from the ashes of the nearly $350 million incinerator debt, $100 million parking authority debt, $100 million other debt, and $180 million unfunded pension liabilities.

Detroit declares bankruptcy. Stockton enters bankruptcy. Harrisburg has a plan, the details of which will be released soon. No bankruptcy. No debt. Sound familiar?

City residents have heard it before. How many times have concerned citizens been told to wait to speak, to suggest, to critique, while those in power call a news conference, call a vote, and make their case? We will hear it again until we demand a seat at the table and a voice in the decision making process.

Until final release and thorough study of the recovery plan, no citizen or citizen's group can possibly know if the plan is good for the man or woman on the street. Seen as pesky impediments to a solution, rather than stakeholders, we simply were not included in the plan's development. Call it the "No Citizen Input" solution.

Like General William Lynch and most of this year's mayoral candidates, I am hopeful that our river city will rise from the ashes of the nearly $350 million incinerator debt, $100 million parking authority debt, $100 million other debt, and $180 million unfunded pension liabilities. I am hopeful that we will regain our footing as the strong, economic engine of the capital region. I am hopeful because a diverse coalition is starting to work together to move Harrisburg forward.

I have a sneaking suspicion, however, that the "house of cards" David Unkovic said was built on "corruption" will continue to haunt Harrisburg whether the state steps up or the city goes broke after earned income taxes are doubled, property taxes jump, and potential revenue generating assets are sold.

Why? So far, there have been no investigations, no indictments, no community-negotiated concessions. And except for a few forums, the community has been largely left out.

With Mayor Linda Thompson working on her legacy, Harrisburg's next mayor soon to be elected, and the worst hopefully behind us, talk of civility and engagement may not seem necessary. Without threats of bankruptcy, tax hikes, and stranded debt, why ask questions?

Never mind the connections between the county and the creditors. Never mind the tax increases that residents were assured would only last for one year. Never mind the unanswered questions.

It would be easy to move forward without a backward glance at the bond deals, consulting fees, contracts, artifact sales, utility bills and incivility that pushed Harrisburg to the brink. It would be easy to ignore the fairness and justice questions suppressed by sunny statements. But doing so would not be fair to those who have sacrificed, nor would it bring justice to the city. Rather than shy away, shouldn't we say, "Never again!" and shine light on where we must do better?

With a "deal" on the table and "recovery" within sight, we can, finally, delve more deeply into both the city's financial future and how the current crisis began. Barring a bailout by the state or Dauphin County, either of which could afford it but both of which have disavowed it, we must follow the money from the taxpayers to the coffers of those who most stand to gain. Is the deal sound? Is it fair? Does it protect the common interests of those who live and work in the city?

The first step in the recovery process was to bring together the community, the creditors, and the elected officials at the city, county, and state levels. The second step was to require concessions from creditors, sacrifices from residents, and regional cooperation. The third step was to seek out opportunities for growth to move Harrisburg from the brink of bankruptcy to sustainability. At every step, the community needed to be empowered and justice needed to be a sacred goal.

What Harrisburg needs now is a renewed commitment to civility and community empowerment.

We must continue to ask the tough questions, the kinds of questions that make politicians squirm and civic leaders wonder. We must demand accountability from those we elect to serve as well as those who want our vote. Our ability to put aside our differences and find common ground is our best hope for achieving a sustainable and just outcome.

More specifically, the community should be at the table and have a voice in future negotiations with creditors. Similarly, those who created the debt without public participation, or who took steps to shut out those who might have brought down the house of cards, should be held accountable. Sunshine laws, right-to-know laws, public comment laws, and bonding oversight laws must be enforced. Collective amnesia is no substitute for open government.

Inspired by a participatory style rather than releasing a multi-pronged, complicated solution in finished form for a quick review and stamp of approval, Harrisburg could draw upon the insight and expertise that people from every city neighborhood and beyond can bring to the task at hand. Harrisburg's size provides unique opportunities for collaboration and empowerment. The nature of the challenges that face our city leaves us few alternatives.

Alan Kennedy-Shaffer will be moderating the Harrisburg Hope mayoral debate at Harrisburg Area Community College Oct. 3.

Chamber Gains National Award

Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Aug. 1 The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce received the 2013 Chamber of the Year Award at the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce National Business & Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas.

"Here at the chamber, we are all about engaging with local businesses, helping to identify opportunities for their growth as organizations, entrepreneurs, professionals and as individuals. We aim to produce sustainable growth for the organization and our members, connecting the dots, that connect the dollars." said Deb McClain, CPGLCC President and CEO.

NGLCC recognized CPGLCC as a role model for other chambers and an example of what an LGBT chamber or business organization should be. A winning Chamber of the Year is judged as an established and stable chamber that has weathered ups and downs, continued to see growth, remained relevant in the community, and is engaged locally and nationally in policy, supplier diversity certification, and the LGBT business equality movement.

"Not only is it a great reward for our hard work, but it also helps to further establish Central Pennsylvania as a premiere place for the LGBTA community to live, work and do business," said board member Harry Young.

"CPGLCC is a relatively young chamber and what they've achieved in a short time is exceptional," said Justin Nelson, NGLCC Co-Founder and President. "Their work partnering with major corporations, developing educational programming, and promoting the LGBT Supplier Diversity Initiative never fails to impress us."

The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is committed to expanding the economic interests of LGBT owned and allied businesses through advocacy, education, and partnerships with the local business community.

Established in 2007 and one of two LGBT chambers in Pennsylvania, the local chamber has 196 members and is affiliated with of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), which has fifty-two affiliate chambers. The chamber serves Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York counties.

At a recent mixer, chamber board members received the a citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives acknowledging the organization's contributions to the citizens of the Commonwealth. The citation was presented by Eric Gutshall, chief of staff for state Rep. Patti Kim.

Aging with Pride, a program of the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian, Community Center, hosted an evening July 25.

Medicaid Expansion Failure a Win for PA

By Matthew J. Brouillette

When is the most humane decision the one that seems just the opposite? In refusing to expand the state's Medicaid program, Gov. Corbett and the General Assembly have been vilified as cold and uncaring. But despite the critics, both the economic and moral arguments are on the side of those seeking to reform Medicaid, not those pushing the expansion of a broken program.

President Obama's government health insurance overhaul, the Affordable Care Act, calls for states to expand their Medicaid programs to those up to 133 percent of the poverty line—about $15,000 for an individual or $31,000 for a family of four. But even without expansion, Pennsylvania's program already consumes 30 percent of the state budget and is one of the most generous in the nation.

Expanding Medicaid would add close to a million new beneficiaries, resulting in fully one-quarter of the state's population being eligible for coverage. The cost to Pennsylvania's taxpayers through 2022 could reach $5 billion. That's enough to give any governor or state legislature pause. It's no surprise, then, that Pennsylvania isn't alone in its opposition to Medicaid expansion.

So far, twenty other states agree that expansion is not a good solution for their most vulnerable citizens, despite the federal government's offer to pay all associated costs for the first two years. What makes turning down "free" federal money so popular? Look no further than the strings attached: the results of the Medicaid program themselves.

Decades of academic research show the program has consistently failed the working poor. From greater chances of cancer recurrence, to higher in-hospital mortality rates for strokes, heart attacks, and pneumonia, to limited options for many medical procedures, Medicaid has proven unable to provide patients the care that they desperately need and deserve.

One in three doctors won't even accept new Medicaid patients at all—that's the difference between what Medicaid does provide, a health insurance card, and what it doesn't, quality health care.

Unfortunately, such a harsh indictment of Medicaid hasn't stopped politicians on both sides of the aisle from pushing for expansion instead of pursuing reforms that will better serve the working and non-working poor. What's luring them is that promise of "free" federal money.

This same promise has broken the wills of politicians in other states who at one time opposed either Medicaid expansion or the Affordable Care Act as a whole. This list includes Florida's Governor Rick Scott as well as Ohio's John Kasich, who have both gone to great lengths to push expansion in their states. But once state lawmakers saw the plan's costs and failures, as they have in Pennsylvania, they strongly resisted the push to expand the broken program.

Accepting this bribery is a short-sighted move, at best. States should have learned from experience that Washington doesn't exactly set its promises in stone. President Obama has already proposed cutting the federal reimbursement of state Medicaid costs—twice. That was the very promise that enticed several states to jump on the expansion bandwagon in the first place.

If reimbursement rates are cut, state taxpayers will be footing the bill. Compounded with the ACA's $500 billion price tag–a cost equal to $6,300 per family–the funding shortfall would hit every Pennsylvanian's wallet.

But by refusing to expand Medicaid, states like Pennsylvania have helped reduce the federal deficit by an estimated $459 billion. To some, the promise of free federal funding may seem too good to pass up, but the suffering that people will endure from an expansion of Medicaid should not be so easily forgotten.

Thankfully, Pennsylvania lawmakers' steadfast refusal to trade our neediest citizens and taxpayers for temporary political gain and uncertain federal cash is a sign that other difficult reforms may yet be on the horizon.

Matthew J. Brouillette is president and CEO of the Commonwealth Foundation (CommonwealthFoundation.org).

DON'T ASK. JUST .ning ME.

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Harper Poll: *PA Voters Back Medicaid Expansion*

By Keegan Gibson
PolicticsPA

Harper Medicaid PollNew numbers from GOP pollster Harper Polling show that Pa. voters favor the expansion of Medicaid for low income individuals, as prescribed by the Affordable Care Act, 49% to 39%.

Gov. Tom Corbett has said he would not expand the program, citing its growing cost over the long term. However, he has left the door open for a reversal on his decision.

The support for expansion is driven by women, who favor it by 20 points (52% to 31%). Men are split at 45% each. The 56 to 65 age group supports it most strongly, 60% to 31%. Young voters, age 18 to 35, oppose it most strongly: 53% to 37%.

67% of Republicans are opposed to expansion, while 80% of Democrats favor it. As do 51% of independents and third party voters. Self-described moderates support the expansion 70% to 20%.

Geographically, expansion is most popular in SEPA (60% to 32%) and least popular in the south central (44% to 35% opposed).

The firm surveyed 622 likely voters on Feb. 27 and 28 via interactive voice response calls. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.39 percent. 47% of respondents were Democrats, 44% were Republicans.

PennFuture Praises New Stormwater Law

PennFuture praised the Pennsylvania General Assembly and Governor Corbett for the enactment of Sen. Ted Erickson's, R-Delaware, Senate Bill 351 as a wise move to ensure that local governments have the ability to form stormwater authorities to address flooding and reduce pollution to our streams and rivers. Governor Corbett today signed the bill into law.

"Senate Bill 351 will now give municipalities the option to create stormwater authorities, which many municipalities have been reluctant to create without express legislative authorization," said George Jugovic, chair of PennFuture's law staff. "Stormwater authorities will allow communities to work together to address stormwater issues on a watershed basis and provide municipalities with potential sources of funding and expertise for stormwater planning and projects."

Runoff that is not properly managed causes flooding and carries pollution such as heavy metals, sediment and nutrients from our cities and towns untreated into rivers, lakes and streams or through storm drains.

PennFuture proposed the legislation in 2011, and PennFuture policy director Steve Stroman worked closely with Sen. Erickson, House Local Government Committee Majority Chair Kate Harper, R-Montgomery, Minority Chair Robert Freeman, D-Northampton, and other members of the General Assembly over the past two years in order to pass Senate Bill 351 into law.

PennFUTURE
Every environmental victory grows the economy.

"PennFuture congratulates Sen. Erickson for his strong leadership in passing this important legislation, specifically building near-unanimous support in the Senate and working with the Senate Republican leadership to get the bill to Governor Corbett's desk," said Stroman. "Rep. Harper, who sponsored identical legislation in the form of HB 821, did an extraordinary job guiding the bill through the House Local Government Committee and then around some challenging shoals toward a final passage vote in the House. We also commend Rep. Freeman for his strong support and diligent work on behalf of this legislation," continued Stroman.

Stroman also praised the work of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and many local government officials in advocating for the legislation.

"Stormwater can have a catastrophic effect on life, property and communities, and is also one of the largest sources of pollution to Pennsylvania's rivers and streams," said Stroman. "We commend the General Assembly and Governor Corbett for providing this new and important tool

continued on page 7

Study: Youth Face Greater Harassment Online & Greater Peer Support, Access to Health Information

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth experience nearly three times as much bullying and harassment online as non-LGBT youth, but also find greater peer support, access to health information and opportunities to be civically engaged, according to a new report released today by GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network.

The study, Out Online: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth on the Internet, is based on national surveys of 5,680 students in 6-12th grade. The report is the first to examine in-depth the experiences of LGBT youth online.

Out Online reveals that LGBT youth were more likely than non-LGBT youth to be bullied or harassed online (42% vs. 15%) and twice as likely to say they had been bullied via text message (27% vs. 13%). Survey respondents also reported they were as likely to report not feeling safe online (27%) as they were at school (30%) and while traveling to and from school (29%). Online victimization contributed to negative self-esteem and higher depression Youth who experienced bullying and harassment both in person as well as online or via text message reported lower grade point averages, lower self-esteem and higher levels of depression than youth who were bullied only in person, only online or via text message, or not at all.

Despite experiences of bullying and harassment online, LGBT youth indicated the Internet is also a space that offers safer opportunities to express who they are, find peer support and gain access to resources not necessarily available in person. LGBT youth were more likely to have searched for health and medical information compared to non-LGBT youth (81% vs. 46%), and half (50%) reported having at least one close online friend, compared to only 19% of non-LGBT youth.

LGBT youth reported high rates of civic engagement online as well. A majority of LGBT youth reported having taken part in an online community that supports a cause or issue (77%), promoted a cause or issue (76%), written a blog or posted comments on another blog about a cause or issue (68%), and used the Internet to participate in or recruit people for an event or activity (51%) in the past year.

Key Findings on Bullying/Harassment and Safety

LGBT youth were nearly three times as likely as non-LGBT youth to say they had been bullied or harassed online (42% vs. 15%) and twice as likely to say they had been bullied via text message (27% vs 13%).

1 in 4 LGBT youth (26%) said they had been bullied online specifically because of their sexual orientation or gender expression in the past year, and 1 in 5 (18%) said they had experienced bullying and harassment for these reasons via text message.

1 in 3 (32%) LGBT respondents said they had been sexually harassed online in the past year. 1 in 4 LGBT youth (25%) said they had been sexually harassed via text message.

LGBT youth were four times as likely as non-LGBT youth to say they had been sexually harassed online (32% vs. 8%) and three times as likely to say they had been sexually harassed via text message (25% vs. 8%).

Key Findings on LGBT Resources and Information-Seeking Online

LGBT youth were five times as likely as non-LGBT youth to have searched for information online on sexuality or sexual attraction as non-LGBT youth (62% vs. 12%).

LGBT youth were also more likely to have searched for health and medical information compared to non-LGBT youth (81% vs. 46%).

Key Findings on Peer Supports

50% of LGBT youth reported having at least one close online friend, compared to only 19% of non-LGBT youth.

LGBT youth rated their online friends as more supportive than non-LGBT youth rated their online friends.

Two-thirds of LGBT youth (62%) had used the Internet to connect with other LGBT people in the past year.

More than 1 in 10 LGBT youth (14%) said that they had first disclosed their LGBT identity to someone online.

1 in 4 LGBT youth (29%) said they were more out online than in person.

More than half (52%) of LGBT youth who were not out to peers in person had used the Internet with other LGBT people.

Key Findings on Civic Participation

LGBT youth reported high rates of civic engagement

online, including having taken part in an online community that supports a cause or issues (77%), gotten the word out about a cause or an issue (76%), written a blog post or posted comments on another blog about a cause or an issue (68%) and used the Internet to participate in or recruit people for an event or activity (51%).

More than half (54%) of LGBT youth had used text messages in the past year to support or get the word out about an issue or a cause and just under half (42%) had participated in or encouraged others to participate in an in-person activity or event.

The overwhelming majority of LGBT youth in this study (68%) had engaged in volunteering as well as online/text-based civic activities in the past year.

One in five LGBT youth (22%) said they had only been engaged civically online or via text message in the past year, suggesting that Internet technologies may serve as an important resource and foster civic participation for some LGBT youth.

Key Findings on Differences by Individual and Contextual Factors

Transgender youth were more likely than other LGB youth to have searched for health and medical information.

LGBT youth in rural areas experienced substantially higher levels of victimization online and via text message compared to LGBT youth in suburban and urban areas.

PennFuture

continued from page 6

to local governments to help address the problem."

PennFuture is a statewide public interest membership organization, founded in 1998, with staff in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Wilkes-Barre. PennFuture's activities include litigating cases before regulatory bodies and in local, state, and federal courts; advocating and advancing legislative action on a state and federal level; public education; and assisting citizens in public advocacy.

The Philadelphia Inquirer called PennFuture the "state's leading environmental advocacy organization;" the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette named the organization "one of the 10 most influential groups on the issue of natural gas drilling;" and StateImpact Pennsylvania, an online collaboration of NPR stations across the state, called PennFuture "the commonwealth's main environmental advocate."

Professional Transgender Association Forms

The Association of Transgender Professionals (ATP) formed recently according to ATP Executive Director, Denise Norris. The new group has been endorsed by a national advisory board of voluntary leaders and allies.

The association will serve people who have, had or will have non-conforming gender expressions/identities and seek to advance their professional careers. The group's goal is to encourage networking and mentoring to strengthen careers and promote the next generation of leaders.

With respect to gender expression diversity, Norris points out that everyone has a gender expression.

"It is the sum of all the gender attributes one presents to the world. It is seen in our mannerisms, our clothing, our partners, our careers and especially our bodies. However, when gender expression is unclear, or when there are conflicting attributes, one's gender expression becomes non-conforming in the mind of the observer. When the non-conforming aspects of gender expression approach the extreme level found in many transgender people, it can lead to harassment, abuse, discrimination and even violence upon that person."

Norris says, "ATP's vision is to create inclusion for gender expression for all employees. Our belief is that in the setting of the workplace it should not matter why or how an employee expresses their gender. What ultimately matters is that the employee can fulfill the duties of the job for which they were hired."

Info: www.transgenderprofessionals.org

"With ignorance comes fear- from fear comes bigotry. Education is the key to acceptance."

– Kathleen Patel, ***The Bullying Epidemic-the guide to arm you for the fight***

Ally in the Academy

By Trum Simmons
Harrisburg Area Community College

"Life is Hopeless and Beautiful"

I cried because life is hopeless and beautiful.

That line from poet Howard Nemerov has reverberated in my mind and heart ever since I found it some thirty years ago, because I see life that way as well.

The New Yorker cover after the Supreme Court same-sex marriage decision last June showed Bert and Ernie sitting together watching SCOTUS on the TV. The illustration by Jack Hunter was entitled Moment of Joy, and man, didn't millions of us experience joy when DOMA was defeated for good! The gathering at the LGBT Community Center, Harrisburg, that evening was a time of great relief and happy celebration. Toast after champagne toast brought much laughter and many tears. I will never forget that great evening.

How one sees life on this planet is a matter of life lived and the experiences we've had, and most of us have had a taste of all the wonderful things in life, but also the terrible—or hopeless—things as well.

For example: the news in June and July and now in the fall contains example after example of how far we have to go in eliminating discrimination against people in the LGBTQ communities across our nation. How long will it take for our state to approve same-sex marriage?

Another example: A friend who is of my father's generation just doesn't get the Supremes' decision. And confronted with an important person in both our lives who has recently come out and who was weeping tears of joy at the center that June evening, my elderly friend is beside herself with confusion and anger.

I'm not surprised at her reaction, but she is a person I have spent a lot of time with in a setting where we talk about significant things and which has included a same-sex couple warmly embraced by the group. And that couple did a lot to educate the group on LGBTQ matters; they were great role models of how to talk with straight folks about matters unfamiliar to most members.

So when my friend expressed exasperation confusion and anger at the coming out of our mutual acquaintance, I was reminded of the hopeless part of Nemerov's line. I don't expect miracles, and I know things take time, but really!

And of course after the SCOTUS decision many LGBTQ advocates across the country pointed out that this is only one victory of many battles still to be fought. As Ted Martin of Equality PA said to news outlet, remember that you can still be fired for being gay in Pennsylvania. Hopeless.

I consider myself a romantic idealist, and life has challenged that world view over and over through the years. As this is the time of year when students are going back to school I want to talk about my experience in higher ed over the past forty-plus years. My experience has been hopeless and beautiful.

I landed at HACC in the fall of 1971 during the last throes of the famous/infamous 60s. I had gone to grad school in 1966 and spent five years trying to study language and literature while undergoing a radical change in my world view because of my involvement in the civil rights, anti-war, and human potential movements. Oh-- not to mention the cultural vibe of the times which featured much weed, love everybody, and in general live a life of freedom from the shackles of a repressive society.

I was fortunate to get a job HACC where I began to experiment in the classroom with what psychologist and educator Carl Rogers called the freedom to learn. After a year of wearing a sport jacket and ties and following the English department syllabus I threw away the ties, started wearing jeans and a sport shirt to campus, and had my students arrange their desk chairs in a circle. No more rigid rows, not to mention student-teacher roles!

I've had a fine career at your friendly local community college, and I believe I have made a significant contribution to the institution founded almost 50 years ago. And I have so many stories of great and beautiful times over the years—students turned on to so many unexpected learning adventures of both the head and the heart. Faculty and administration working together to promote educational and cultural change.

And then there are the hopeless parts. Looking back on a forty-year career, just what did I accomplish? How much has higher ed changed as a result of the upheavals on the 1960s and my forty years of toiling in what my professor son calls the front-line trenches of higher education. Well, it's a mixed bag for sure. Lots of the beautiful and much of the hopeless.

Our community college and the rest of higher ed face headwinds blowing against the change those of us from my generation helped create. Teachers and students have less freedom to follow their dreams, and this just-retired and still idealistic prof sometimes feels hopeless.

Just how does one deal with the back and forth between these two poles of life? It seems this has turned into another two-part column. Stay tuned for more in our next issue on how you and I can learn to deal with the vicissitudes of life-- hopeless and beautiful life.

Trum Simmons is Professor Emeritus of English and Adviser Emeritus, LGBT Allies Group, Harrisburg Area Community College

Bless Me Father for I Have Sinned

Bless me father for I have sinned... recent reports indicated that at least two Roman Catholic clerics have gotten their rosaries caught in the ringer.

New York Times columnist Frank Bruni reports that US Catholic Church documents show that in 2007, as the Milwaukee archdiocese grappled with sex-abuse lawsuits and seemingly pondered bankruptcy, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, now the archbishop of New York, and previously the archbishop of Milwaukee from 2002 to 2009, sought and got permission from the Vatican to transfer $57 million into a trust for Catholic cemetery maintenance, where it might be better protected, as he wrote, "from any legal claim and liability." Bruni reporting has focused on the Catholic Church and how they allegedly attempt to handle the public relations disaster of widespread child molestation within the Church and their attempts at cover-up. Several church officials have said that the money had been previously flagged for cemetery care, and that Dolan was merely formalizing that.

Then, Monsignor Battista Ricca, Pope Francis' choice to clean up a scandalized Vatican bank operation was "found stuck in lift with rent boy". Known officially as the IoR (Institute for Religious Works), Ricca was supposed to usher in new transparency and badly needed reforms after years of financial scandal. He wasn't banking on his latest problem in an already complicated scenario. In July, a major report from finance police and magistrates warned that a lack of checks and controls by the IoR and the Italian financial institutions it had dealings with made the Vatican's bank a money-laundering hot spot.

Heating up an already hot situation are reports detailing how in 1999, Ricca took a Vatican diplomatic posting in Uruguay and moved his lover, Patrick Haari, a Swiss army captain, in with him, to the outrage of church figures and locals in the

conservative South American nation. Next, Ricca was attacked in a cruising ground that year, and soon after firemen had to rescue him from a broken lift, in which he was trapped with a youth known by local police. Forgive them father for they know not what they do - or how their hypocritical lives and their harmful policies on lgbt issues have hurt so many people over so many centuries. The sin is not homosexuality in and of itself but their deceit, their hypocrisy, and their institutional policies that thwart the souls of lgbt people.

Lancaster events

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Russ Boggs Honored for Diversity Work by Harrisburg Regional Chamber

Russ Boggs, founding president of the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce was honored in May by the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce for his many years of diligent volunteer work. As the founding president of the regional lgbt business chamber, Boggs brought into existence a networking organization that today boasts 195 members. Currently he serves as the organization's treasurer.

Equality PA Launches New Web Site

Equality PA has launched a new web site at www.equalitypa.org. The new site will allow viewers to contact legislators on issues and keep abreast of lgbt issues on the federal, state, and local levels.

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From left to right: Equality PA executive director Ted Martin; state Sen. Rob Teplitz; state Rep. Patty Kim; co-moderator Eric Gutshall, Capital Region Stonewall Democrats board member and Kim's chief of staff; co-moderator and Harrisburg Hope founder Alan Kennedy-Shaffer; Melissa Morris, equality organizer, ACLU/PA; Homer Floyd, former executive director, PA Human Relations Commission; and Gene Albano, representing Log Cabin Republicans.

Equality Forum - Talk to Opponents

By Frank Pizzoli

"...you got me, that's what I tell constituents who come to see me on lgbt issues," explained state Sen. Rob Teplitz. "I'm there with you already, supportive. Talk to your opponents," he advised 100 people gathered July 22 for "Advancing Toward Equality" on marriage equality and equal rights held at Harrisburg's Midtown Scholar Bookstore.

A stalwart lgbt civil rights supporter, State Rep. Patty Kim explained that she evolved.

"I got to know lgbt people. I evolved in my understanding," she said. Echoing Teplitz she told the mostly young crowd, "Talk to those who don't agree with you. Get to know all segments of the community."

Equality PA executive director Ted Martin talks to lgbt civil rights opponents all the time.

Martin points out "Pennsylvania cannot ignore what's going on all around it" in surrounding states and on the Northern Seaboard. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, and Washington, DC allow same-sex marriages. New Jersey recognizes civil unions.

Martin used to speak with elected officials who claimed there were "no gay people" in their districts. "I don't hear that anymore," referring to the increase in lgbt people and their supporters following the advice of Teplitz and Kim to speak to opponents.

Even though Homer Floyd, former executive director, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, had hoped the recent US Supreme Court decision "had gone further" in advancing lgbt marriage rights, the momentum towards basic civil rights is palpable.

Efforts will next focus on forms of legislation that effect all lgbt individuals, not only those who choose to marry.

"The American Civil Liberties Union is preparing a public education campaign," said Melissa Morris, equality organizer, ACLU/PA. Twenty-six fortune 500 companies in the state have non-discrimination policies in place.

Representing Log Cabin Republicans, an often-maligned group within the larger lgbt activist and advocacy community, retired realtor Gene Albano affirmed that organization's commitment to basic civil rights.

"We applaud President Obama on DADT, on his marriage stance," he underscored, saying that his organization differs with other advocacy groups mainly on economic issues, not basic civil rights issues.

Referring mainly to Republicans, audience member Ben Martin said," I can't believe every single Republican who consistently votes against basic civil rights really feels that way. They fear constituencies will vote them out if they support us".

Martin thinks that eventually Republicans not supporting lgbt civil rights will see campaign contributors stop writing checks. "That's how our civil rights will continue to evolve, from the bottom up to elected Republican officials who see their voting base changing".

Harrisburg Hope convened local lgbt voices under the banner of its establish brand "to continue the momentum gained from marriage gains and to look toward non-discrimination laws next" said founder Kennedy-Shaffer.

Harrisburg Hope, Capital Region Stonewall Democrats, and LGBT Center of Central PA. presented the program.

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October is LGBT History Month - Brought to the community by Equality Forum, search an entire LGBT History Month database of 248 Icons —from 2006 to 2013—by Icon name or by more than 150 tags including Academy Award, African-American, Author, Chicago, Composer, Germany, Lesbian, Politics and Transgender.
Database: www.lgbtHistoryMonth.com

Log Cabin Republicans, Senate Cte. Win Challenge

The Federal Election Commission will allow lawfully married same-sex couples to make joint political donations from an individual bank account. The move is in response to the US Supreme Court ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act and two challenges. The decision states that "the term 'spouse' includes same-sex couples married under state law."

The two opinions come in response to separate requests by the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee as well as a same-sex Massachusetts couple who are members of Log Cabin Republicans and wanted to donate to the special election campaign for pro-gay Republican Senate candidate Dan Winslow. The conclusions of the two opinions are identical in language.

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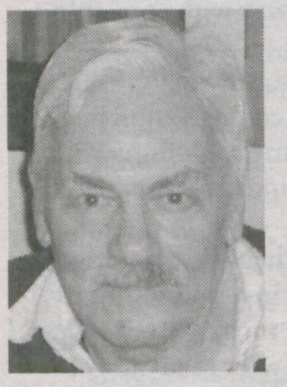
ABC National News Reports on Local Couple; Story First Published by Central Voice

June 26 Central Voice published online a story about a local couple - John (real name) and Gregory (not his real name) - who had been together almost 45 years. In order to find a way around Pennsylvania's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and thereby to avoid a 15% inheritance tax, John adopted Gregory in Dauphin County Court.

From here in Central Pennsylvania, the story went viral, beginning with ABC News reporting on the couple and giving credit to Central Voice for first reporting the story, as did The Huffington Post, and other media outlets.

A Bing.com search will produce several pages of references to the story. Twenty-three people are now challenging the state's DOMA law in court.



John, 65, adopted Gregory, his partmer of 44 years, in Dauphin County court.

John tells Central Voice "This has been quite an experience since the story went way beyond central Pennsylvania."

Would he do it again?

"Absolutely, in a wink. Maybe in the months to come, we'll hear of more couples taking advantage of a legal option."

This has been quite an experience since the story went way beyond central Pennsylvania.

John

John is most surprised by "the fact that the story went viral and how various publications focused on different aspects of the adoption. Some media fixated on our ages more than our honest reason for the adoption - to avoid a high inheritance tax in a state that does not allow same-sex marriages. Some publications called what we did tax avoidance. Others were caught up in the adoption as incest."

What pleased John the most "is that Central Voice thought the issue, our circumstance which actually reflects so many other lgbt couples' situation, was important enough to share with readers who might benefit from adoption as a legal option to their own inheritance tax issues."

He also notes the huge numbers of positive and supportive feedback comments on some news links. "That my partner of almost 45 years was willing to share the story so other elder lgbt couples might find some protection from inheritance and other end of life issues that straight married couples take for granted. That the ABC National News and ABC Radio and local ABC reporter, Karissa Shatzer, were consistent and accurate with the facts."

What displeased John the most "is that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a state that has historically been a leader in so many initiatives is governed by a collection of bible thumping legislators who can't stop judging lgbt civil rights in negative terms. That the state has not yet passed a law to enable same sex marriages or unions. That a state legislator was not allowed to comment in session about the US Supreme Court's DOMA ruling. That the local CBS affiliate put a negative spin on how they presented the story making it sound like we are trying to avoid paying taxes. That I experienced firsthand how many homophobic, mean spirited, and supposedly Christian people are out there ready to pounce and comment on any aspect of lgbt life that surfaces in print or video.

John said he was also "displeased that some publications actually rewrote Central Voice's original interview to make the adoption seem like a sick and twisted act. They just don't get that we are honest, and responsible, and pay taxes just like most ordinary honest Americans do. He notes that he and his partner "pay, school, property, sales, income, social security, State and Federal taxes. Just because we are smart enough to take advantage of a legal option for lessening the inheritance tax seemed to lots of negative feedback."

John thinks it is "crucial that lgbt couples in a long term committed relationship move forward and deal with end of life issues. Wills, Power of Attorney, Medical Power of Attorney, and possible adoption if they live in a state where same sex unions does not seem like an option in their lifetimes and where adoption is a legal option." He does point out that "adoption doesn't always work for every lgbt couple and depends on where they live, and if there are still living parents." The bottom line, John says, is when a partner dies, the surviving partner better be legally and financially protected or risk everything to unsympathetic surviving family members."

Finally, John advises others to "registered to vote and actually vote and to call, write, email state and Federal representatives to demand equal, civil rights! Support legislators who support our equal rights."

Center for Spiritual Living Begins Weekly Services

The Center for Spiritual Living Cumberland Valley, under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Terry Drew Karanen, Spiritual Leader and Founding Pastor, recently began regular weekly services at its new home in Summerdale, PA.

A Spiritual Community Service is held 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in their new location at Central PA Business College (Bldg ATEC, Room 302), 600 Valley Road, Summerdale, PA 17093. Ample, free parking is available across the street.

The Center is dedicated to a teaching that is the correlation of the laws of science, the opinions of philosophy and the revelations of religions as applied to the needs and aspirations of humankind. The Center honors all spiritual paths and all people. Join us in creating a spiritual community for the 21st century!

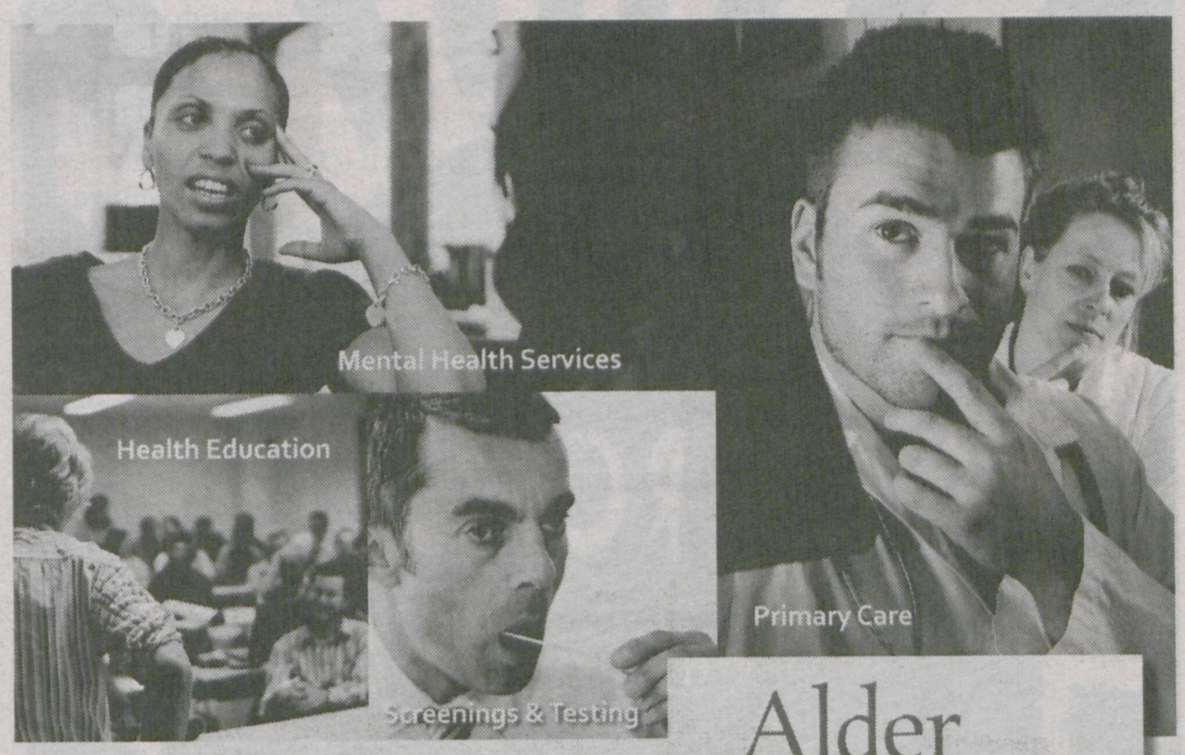
The Center is designed around a forwarded-thinking model of spiritual support using a holistic approach. A board of directors is replaced with a core council; a team-concept is used instead of committees; and, decisions are made based on the vision, mission and purpose of the Center. The teaching and decisions are all supported by a type of effective, affirmative prayer which is virtually unknown to most people, yet the most efficient way of altering our consciousness to affect change.

The Center for Spiritual Living Cumberland Valley was charted by Centers for Spiritual Living, Golden, CO, on October 28, 2011. Since its birth the Center has provided the only Science of Mind classes taught by a licensed and trained minister of Religious Science, spiritual leader and founding pastor, the Rev. Dr. Terry Drew Karanen. Besides holding a doctor of divinity degree in holistic theology, Dr. Karanen also earned a master of social work degree from Temple University. He provides counseling, coaching and psychotherapy for individuals, couples and organizations as a licensed social worker. He founded the Golden Triangle Church of Religious Science and Center for Positive Living (now Center for Spiritual Living Pittsburgh South) in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1993, and was most recently the spiritual leader of Unity of Harrisburg.

Phone or text: 717.884.8592

"All men are created equal. No matter how hard you try, you can never erase those words."

– Harvey Milk



How often do you think about your health?

We think about it *every day.*

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Mental Health Services
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HIV/AIDS Services
Screenings and Testing
Health Education

For more information call 1.800.867.1550
or visit www.ALDERHEALTH.org

Alder Health Services is dedicated to improving the health of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and transgender community and those struggling with addiction in South Central Pennsylvania. The organization provides residents of the community with: • HIV/AIDS Services and Prevention Programming • Primary Medical Care • Mental Health Counseling Services • STD Screening and Treatment • HIV Testing • Community Health Education Forums and Workshops
All HIV-related services are provided at no-cost to the participant. Primary medical care and mental health counseling services are available on a sliding fee scale. While many insurance plans are accepted, insurance is not necessary to access the services of Alder Health.

'State of the Air' Report Lists Cleanest, Dirtiest cities

The American Lung Association has issued its annual 'State of the Air' report. Combining the three different segments for both the cleanest and dirtiest cities, the site 24/7 Wall Street has come up with America's best and worst!

Interestingly, eight of the worst cities for clean air are in California and six of the best are in the Rockies!

Here are the cleanest cities:

1. Cheyenne, Wyo.
2. St. George, Utah
2. Santa Fe-Espanola, N.M.
4. Prescott, Ariz.
5. Farmington, N.M.
6. Pocatello, Idaho
7. Redding, Calif.
8. Tucson, Ariz.
9. Flagstaff, Ariz.
9. Rapid City, S.D.
9. Colorado Springs, Colo.
9. Albuquerque, N.M.
13. Salinas, Calif.

Here are the dirtiest cities:

1. Bakersfield-Delano, Calif.
1. Merced, Calif.
3. Fresno-Madera, Calif.
4. Hanford-Corcoran, Calif.
4. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside, Calif.
6. Modesto, Calif.
7. Visalia-Porterville, Calif.
8. Pittsburgh-New Castle, Pa.
9. El Centro, Calif.
10. Cincinnati-Middletown-Wilmington, Ohio-Ky.-Ind.

MCC column

By Rev. Lori Rivera, Pastor
MCC of the Spirit

Unexpected Impacts

Can you believe it's September already! The mornings are already getting cooler. The vegetables we're getting from the farm have changed from the summer lettuces to all kinds of squash and root vegetables. Time seems to be flying by so fast. Most times I think too fast. So fast that often I don't have "time" to appreciate all that is going on around me.

As we at MCC of the Spirit began planning for Pride 2013 back in April and May, our goal was to have an impact on the community. This goal came about after I met two young men at a GLBT Chamber of Commerce mixer and as we talked they admitted that they didn't know that MCC of the Spirit existed. Didn't know we exist I thought! How could that be? MCC has been in Harrisburg for almost 33 years.

My first thought - we have to do something about this. So I decided we were going to do something to let Harrisburg know MCC of the Spirit is here, alive, well, spirit filled and working to make a difference in our community.

I spoke to lay leaders and our church board and we discussed making an impact or how do we let folks know we are in Harrisburg. My plan was that we would give away items; wrist brands, tote bags, magnetic business cards, to everyone who passed by our booth. My goal was that every person who came to the pride festival would walk away with something that had our website information on it. That's what we did.

I appreciate so much my many church folks who gave their time to staff our booth. They gave out our give-a-ways; they talked to folks and invited them to come to church. They lined both sides of the pathway so hardly anyone got by us without getting something with our website address on it. It was a lot of fun to look down the walkway and see a wave of purple bags as folks walked away from our booth.

But this wasn't the only impact made at Pride. I didn't register at the time the impact my actions would have when I agreed to do a wedding for two gay men in our community. I was doing a service for a friend and his partner that I have known since moving to PA. They had their legal marriage certificate from Montgomery County and they were ready to get legally married. So we gathered in Harrisburg and I performed the wedding service.

Like all couples getting married the guys were smiles from ear to ear. The love they share was evident in their faces. They had eyes only for each other. They were encircled by friends and witnesses, they shared their vows, their rings were blessed, and they were declared a legally married couple. Then all the paperwork was signed. The guys went on their way to celebrate with friends and I went back to doing what I needed to do.

Later when the news reporter called was when it really sank in. WOW! I performed a marriage ceremony for two gay men. They were legally married. Then I found out I was the first pastor to do a same-sex legal marriage service. I certainly had an impact on Harrisburg, more than I ever expected when we were planning for pride.

We need to look for those unexpected places where we can have an impact. Like most pastors, as I entered ministry I wondered what the future would hold. Will I make a difference in my church and my community? Will I make a difference in the lives of people I encounter? Will people see God's love and compassion through me? Will I make an impact?

I am so grateful that God has brought me and my partner, Darlene, to Harrisburg. I am grateful that God has provided me opportunities to interact in this community. I am thrilled to have met so many people of so many different faiths. I rejoice in the work I do in my own church, in the interfaith community, and in the LGBTQ community. But most of all I am so thankful to God for the many unexpected impactful opportunities before me.

May we all continue to look for those unexpected impacts to make a difference for each other in our community!

York events

A Welcome Invasion: British Motorcycles in America
Through Oct. 17
AACA Museum, 161 Hershey Drive, Hershey, PA 17033
www.aacamuseum.org
717-566-7100
$10 admission
The British are coming! A retrospective of the classic British motorcycles imported to America from 1940 through the 1970s, when the power, performance, chrome and color of the great English machines dominated American racetracks and streets! Welcome Invasion focuses on the motorcycles as aesthetic object and material culture, and addresses the innovations, successes, and eventual implosion of the British motorcycle industry.

Rubber Stamp and Paper Arts Festival
October 12 & 13, 2013
Saturday 10AM to 5PM, Sunday 11 AM to 4 PM
The RubberStamp and Paper Arts Festival is a quality event that displays a wide variety of art rubber stamping, scrapbooking, memory books, card-making, paper crafting, book arts, calligraphy arts, and other paper arts products, in a spacious, festive atmosphere with many booths offering ongoing demonstrations, make-and-takes, etc.

Greece Brings Back Forced HIV Testing

Adonis Georgladis, Greece's Health Minister, has introduced a law that makes forced HIV testing and eviction of HIV-positive people commonplace in the country.

Health minister Adonis Georgladis has reinstated Public Health Decree 39A, a 2012 measure that allows police to detain people suspected of being HIV positive and force them to be tested, according the Greek news outlet ENET. The measure also urges landlords to evict tenants who are HIV-positive (as a public health threat).

In April 2012, the measure was the catalyst for the forced testing of hundreds of women. The 17 that were discovered to be HIV positive were splashed across media outlets, with their personal information and photographs published for the world to see. They were characterized by police as "prostitutes" despite the fact that there no evidence was ever provided to back up the accusations. After the women were detained for months, the regulation was repealed and they were sent home.

Now that same measure is being implemented again.

Greece has been seen as increasingly fearful of people with HIV. Rates of the virus have risen over 200% since 2011, most likely due to increased drug abuse and rising unemployment among young adults, which is now over 20%. According to the Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV infections among injecting drug users has doubled from 206 to 487 since 2011. At the same time, HIV prevention budgets have taken a major cut, from 35 million Euros in 2010 to 20 million last year.

Today, that HIV hysteria is growing, say activists, in part because with austerity cuts many Greeks are one step away from

extreme poverty, most experiencing it for the very first time in their lives. The homeless population is growing with the numbers gathering in central squares increasing daily. Despite being one of the most gay-friendly countries in Europe, the backlash against people with HIV has been alarming for visitors and natives alike.

With the measure Georgladis reintroduced, anyone can be forced to be tested with minimal suspicion by the police. If tested positive, the consequences can mean the loss of your job and release of personal information to the media. Additionally, according to the measure's lanuguage, a positive person "should be evicted from their homes, without any alternative being offered."

The humanitarian group Doctors of the World said in a statement, "The Greek Health Minister is clearly violating basic human rights and human dignity under the guise of 'protecting the community from contagious diseases'. Doctors of the World asks the Greek government to focus on the bigger public health problems, such as children's universal right to immunization and the need for this right to be implemented, something the government is no longer able to guarantee. We also call on all health professionals to refuse to conduct mandatory testing."

Bipartisan Campaign Launched to Pass Employment Non-Discrimination Act

A bipartisan campaign is expecting to spends $2 million to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act 19 years after its first introduction. The bill, many advocates, activists, and allies have pointed out, affects all lgbt individuals, unlike marriage equality which although necessary, touches only that portion of the community choosing marriage.

The bipartisan campaign, Americans for Workplace Opportunity, has hired Matt McTighe, a veteran strategist who most recently served as Marriage Project Director for Gill Action after winning the campaign to bring marriage equality to Maine, to serve as the campaign manager.

A majority of states lack laws protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from workplace bias and there is no federal law explicitly barring employment discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

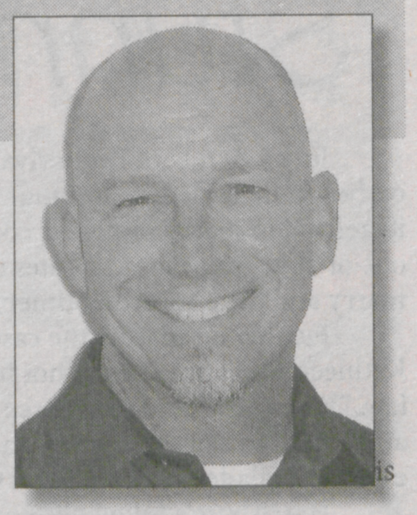
"No one should be fired for who they are or who they love, and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act is a bipartisan, common-sense way to put those values into federal law," said McTighe. "Our campaign will mobilize the supermajority of diverse Americans who believe in workplace fairness and push Congress to act on ENDA this year."

The steering committee of Americans for Workplace Opportunity is comprised of American Civil Liberties Union, American Federation of Teachers, American Unity Fund, Human Rights Campaign, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, and the Service Employees International Union.

making sense of life

By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen

Grace



My column in the Central Voice is designed to be a section on spirituality, not religion and most certainly not dogma. One of the most gratifying features of the philosophy I teach and the methods I use for counseling in private practice is that they work for Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, pagans and virtually every religion I've ever encountered. And, the same principles are just as applicable to agnostics and atheists.

So when I'm approaching a subject like "grace" I know there are those of you who already have a very clear idea of what they have been taught about the grace of God. I want to respect those beliefs and I'd like to offer you another view of grace that is based on a combination of religion, philosophy and science.

The concept of grace is something many of us have grown up with. It's a spiritual (not necessarily religious) concept, but it is too often misunderstood. People are told they don't deserve grace and we can even think ourselves unworthy to receive it. Margaret Stortz writes that "grace, like all movements of Spirit, is a form of energy." We all know from the work of people like Albert Einstein, as well as the more recent research and writings on quantum physics, that everything is energy. It's simply moving at different vibrations and rates of speed. We can choose to use our energy in many ways.

I believe that good is never withheld from us, either by an invisible God or by the universe or by nature in general. If you believe in God as defined in your faith you know that the entity in which you are taught to believe is loving and giving. There are countless metaphors in the Bible and other sacred texts that teach us to follow certain rules to get what we want. This shouldn't be a surprise to any faith-based individual or to an atheist either. Any of us who have attempted to assemble a piece of furniture from IKEA or Staples knows all-too-well that to get what we want in the end we must follow the directions. Even then, we may need to re-read the directions, backtrack a bit if we see we've gone amiss and eventually discover the satisfaction of the finished product.

The Hebrew Scriptures tell a very similar story. When the nation of Israel followed the voice of the prophets who relayed the Word of God, according to the texts, they were blessed. If they turned their backs on those commands they suffered the consequences. It's the same thing today. We have some very simple rules to follow and our lives will be dramatically different.

One of those rules is that if we change our thinking, our core paradigms and beliefs, we can change our lives. Too often we find our lives becoming a "self-fulfilled prophesy," but almost never in a positive light. We will make mistakes, some serious, some incidental, but we will make mistakes. If someone is not making mistakes then they are either not doing anything or they are dead. This is where grace comes in.

Mistakes don't mean we are bad people. It means we made a mistake. We "missed the mark," which an original meaning of "sin." No punishment, no end of our existence, no unforgiveable transgressions. We just screwed up. Period.

Grace is the overwhelming knowledge that we will continue to be supported no matter what. If you are part of a faith that believes in forgiveness then you must believe it is possible for you. What could possibly make you think that you, of all the billons of people on the planet, are so incredibly special that you can't be forgiven? I have no desire to change the basic spiritual beliefs of people in general. Rather, I believe in using universal principles to help guide each person back to their own faith, their own religion, or discover a new way of looking at life that brings them greater pleasure and satisfaction than they might have every experienced before.

Grace is "a capacity to tolerate, accommodate, or forgive people." Whether we believe this is a gift from God or just the way the universe works is irrelevant in one sense. Unless we give ourselves the gift of grace first we cannot move forward in life to live up to our greatest potential. We show others how we want to be treated by how we treat ourselves. Begin today to give yourself a great gift of grace, through being kind to yourself, forgiving your own foibles and loving yourself as the precious creature you are.

Dr. Terry Drew Karanen is the Spiritual Leader and Founding Pastor of Center for Spiritual Living Cumberland Valley and a licensed social worker in private practice. For more information, see: http://newthoughtpa.org

Ohio Officials Order Gay Couple's Recognition

A federal judge in Ohio ordered state officials to recognize the marriage of two men that was performed in Maryland on the death certificate of an Ohio resident in hospice care who the judge says "is certain to die soon."

"The end result here and now is that the local Ohio Registrar of death certificates is hereby ordered not to accept for recording a death certificate for John Arthur that does not record Mr. Arthur's status at death as 'married' and James Obergefell as his 'surviving spouse,'" Judge Timothy Black wrote in an order. "By treating lawful same sex marriages differently than it treats lawful opposite sex marriages," the judge concluded, Ohio's 2004 constitutional amendment banning recognition of same-sex couples' marriages and Ohio's statute addressing the same issue "likely violate the United States Constitution."

"Stunned..."

continued from page one

July 8 ACLU of Pennsylvania filed numerous lawsuits on behalf of 23 people arguing that the state's DOMA and its refusal to marry same-sex couples, or recognize their out-of-state marriages, violates their fundamental right to marry and the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

Further animating the case, State Attorney General Kathleen Kane has chosen not to defend the state's DOMA law. "We are the land of the free and the home of the brave, and I want to start acting like that," Kane said during an event at Philadelphia's National Constitution Center.

Harrisburg's Julie Lobur and Marla Cattermole, legally married in Iowa in 2009, are negatively affected under the state's current law passed in 1996 by then-Gov. Tom Ridge who now supports same-sex marriage. Michelle Nix, of Ridge's office, confirmed for *Central Voice* last March that "his name was added" to the legal brief filed in support of marriage equality.

Lobur says that "I'd feel better psychologically if our relationship, our marriage, legal in Iowa, had full recognition in our state."

Cattermole says that not having a legally recognized marriage causes stress and requires extra diligence to protect the relationship.

"No one of us knows when we'll get sick or die. We have to take extra measures in order to protect ourselves. We have to constantly update the extra measures we must take, get the documents back to a lawyer. Marriages that are recognized do not have these extra burdens," Cattermole explains. Couples have told *Central Voice* they carry their legal paperwork with them, fearing that in the event of an accident their wishes may be denied.

Mary Catherine Roper

ACLU lawyer Mary Catherine Roper, representing Lobur and Cattermole, thinks of the case as Pennsylvania's DOMA case, similar to the case just decided by the US Supreme Court.

"Our suit is straightforward. We seek no monetary damages, no money. We simply want Pennsylvania to allow couples to marry and to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states as legal," she said.

Roper says "all of this should not be necessary, the extra legal work."

Both Lobur and Cattermole are state employees and the Commonwealth has a Domestic Partners program that recognizes various relationships. Even so, the couple, because they're Iowa marriage is not recognized in the state, nor can they marry in Pennsylvania, have had to produce six separate documents to prove they had a bona fide relationship.

Health care benefits are another area where same-sex couples are treated differently than heterosexual counterparts.

"We each have our own health care plans. If one of us wanted to put the other on our plan, then that must be counted as income for the one placed on the other's plan. That's not the way it is for marriages that are recognized," Marla explains.

Cattermole says about their relationship that they have "lived with each other, loved each other, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health... we'd like our relationship legally recognized."

Essentially, Roper explains, "we want the protections offered under the 14th Amendment that guarantees equal protection."

The route to equal protection is not a straight line.

Harrisburg Attorney Leo Dunne helped *Central Voice* demystify the labyrinth course of this historic case on the Federal and state levels.

"A state law may be challenged in either a state or federal court. State laws may be challenged in state court as violating either the state or federal constitution. However, if the challenge is solely based on US constitutional rights it is usually best to file in federal court," Dunne explains.

Regardless of the outcome, either side is able to appeal the decision. "Since it is filed in the PA Middle District Court, the next level is the Federal 3rd Circuit Court," Dunne says.

Meanwhile, as legal challenges worm through courts, a legislative battle is taking shape.

At the close of this year's legislative session in the state House, state Rep. Brian Sims (D-Phila.), openly gay and a civil rights attorney, asked that he be recognized to speak about marriage equality under unanimous consent of the House, a long-standing tradition although usually reserved for uncontroversial issues.

As reported by *Philly.com*, Sims promised House Speaker Sam Smith he "was going to be very respectful, I wasn't going to talk about how far Pennsylvania has to go or that the Republican caucus is an obstacle to equality. I really was just going to speak about -as a civil rights attorney - a major civil rights case...".

Sims told *Philadelphia Weekly* after getting about "three or four words" into his speech, Smith cut him off, citing another legislator's wishes. Several members of the Democratic caucus then began grabbing microphones to speak on the DOMA case. Each were shut down. The objection had been made anonymously, and the Democrats on the floor wanted to know who did it. Smith would not say. After a bit of ruckus, state Rep. Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler), an outspoken conservative and prime sponsor of an anti-gay marriage bill in the legislature, began shouting at Sims and the Democrats to quit it. Sims says Metcalfe yelled out, 'If you need a name, use my name.' Metcalfe was one of the representatives who had objected." Metcalfe later justified to the media that his objection silencing Sims was necessary because Sims was going to engage in "open rebellion against God's law".

Sims asked the legislature to reprimand Metcalfe for his comments, a request on which no action was taken given that the legislature adjourned for the summer.

The fight continues...

By the next day, Sims and Steve McCarter, D-Montgomery/Phila., announced plans to introduced a bill in the state House to provide civil marriage equality. The bill, like an equivalent bill (S.B. 719) introduced by state Sen. Daylin Leach, D-Montgomery/Delaware, provides protections for religious organizations and entities that do not wish to sanction, perform or in any way recognize same-sex civil marriages.

Meanwhile, the hydra head of political maneuvering is wiggling all over.

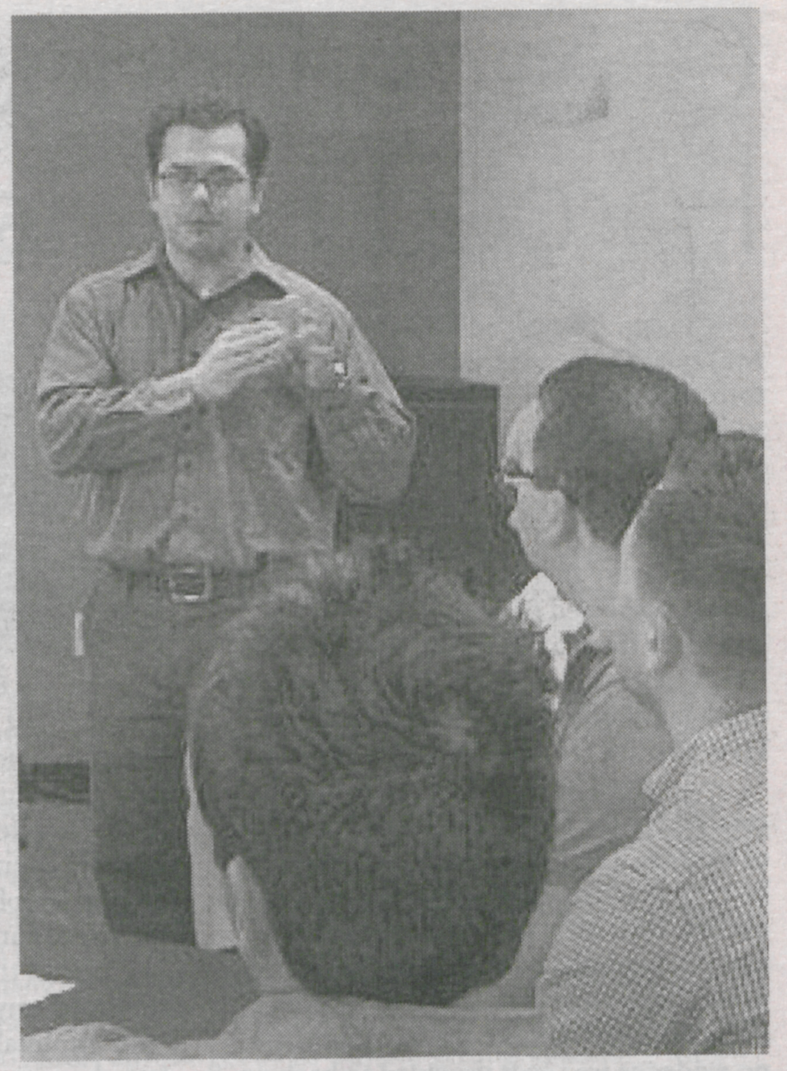
July 23, agreeing the state's DOMA is unconstitutional, Montgomery County Register of Wills Bruce Hanes announced he would issue same-sex marriage license to anyone who walked into this office requesting one.

Just after 8 a.m. the next day, Hane's granted Pottstown's Loreen M. Bloodgood and Alicia A. Terrizzi a marriage license, waiving the three-day waiting period. to the couple of 17 years with two school-aged boys.

Wynnewood's Sasha Esther Ballen and Diana Lynn Spagnuolo, together 17 years and raising two school-aged boys, walked in too and were granted a license.

"While the ACLU suit is working its way through federal court, it's possible Pennsylvania may see federal parity due to a case currently pending in the 3rd Circuit Court that was put on hold until the Federal DOMA case was decided," Dunne points out. If successful the case could be used "to declare that the Federal government must treat all Pennsylvania residents validly married in other jurisdictions as validly married for Federal purposes." The decision effecting Federal parity will not change Pennsylvania's law by granting the state, and same-sex couples, parity. The decision would apply only to couples married in any of the 13 state's that already recognize same-sex marriage.

Dunne says that the current environment around the push for marriage equality in Pennsylvania as a multi-prong approach. "Combined these efforts will hopefully result in progress and true equality," he concludes.



Representatives of organizations and individuals attended a presentation on The Tree House at Alder Health, a new lgbt youth program aimed at homelessness.

Safe horizon

continued from page one

and longer term transitional housing to support lgbt youth in the region as they determine the desired direction for their lives.

"Plans for the program include access to health care, mental health services, education and life skills training program all provided according to the self-determined goals established by the program participant," Anklam says.

Donald Anklam, director of The Tree House at Alder Health.

The essential elements of the program are to provide shelter, stability, success, and health," said Phil Goropoulos, Alder health Services CEO. The facility will accommodate five residents and at any one time. The exact location will soon be announced.

Info: The Tree House at Alder Health or to become involved as the project takes shape, e-mail donald@alderhealth.org or call 1.800.867.1550

Responding to expressed community need on lgbt youth homelessness, Alder Health Services has launched The Tree House at Alder Health, a homeless lgbt youth program. Shown here, stakeholders heard about the new program.

Phila. Fringe Festival Sept. 5-22

Taking place September 5–22, the 2013 Fringe Festival presented by FringeArts (formerly known as the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe) is bigger and better than ever in its 17th year, with a brand-new headquarters on the Delaware River Waterfront and 18 days of both presented and neighborhood performances in cutting-edge theater, dance, music, visual and multidisciplinary arts.

This year's lineup of Presented Fringe includes seven international artists, four world premieres and two reimagined productions from previous Fringe Festivals.

The 2013 Festival features a who's-who of international all-stars, including Italian contemporary artist Romeo Castellucci, Norwegian theater maker Jo Strømgren, Irish step dancer Colin Dunne, Berlin-based circus arts creator Tobias Wegner, legendary Greek director and ritualistic interpreter of ancient tragedy Theodoros Terzopoulos of Attis Theatre, British performance artist Ant

continued on page 22

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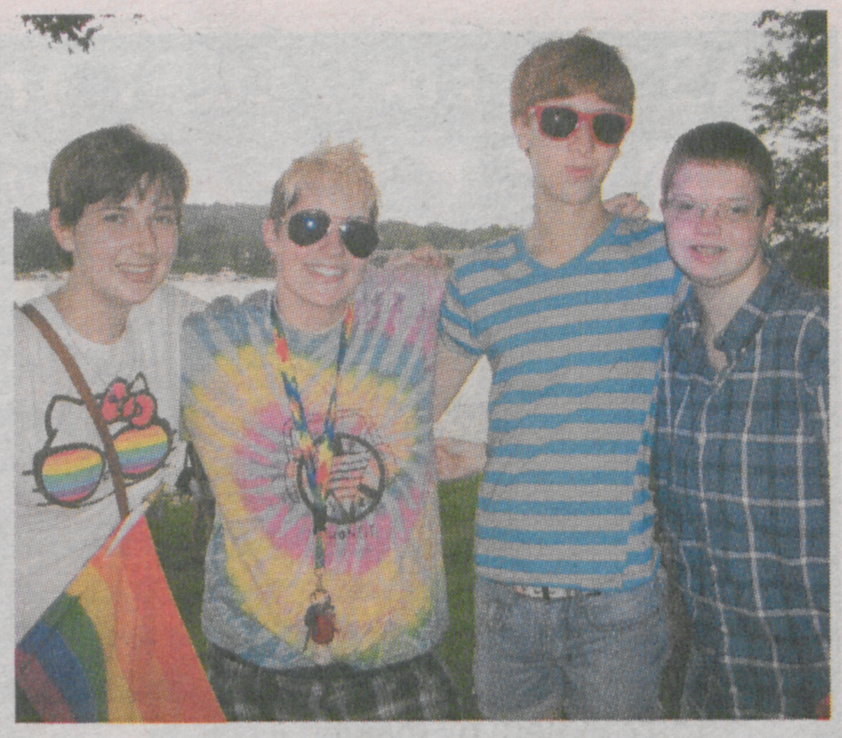

Central Voice Photos

More photos on page 21

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The organization ensures Rascal's furry friends are seen for wellness examinations, given yearly vaccines and get spayed or neutered so that they are great candidates for adopted happy homes.

You can help by making a monetary donation to the CPAA in Rascal's name or by dropping off gift cards or baskets to Noah's Ark Veterinary Center

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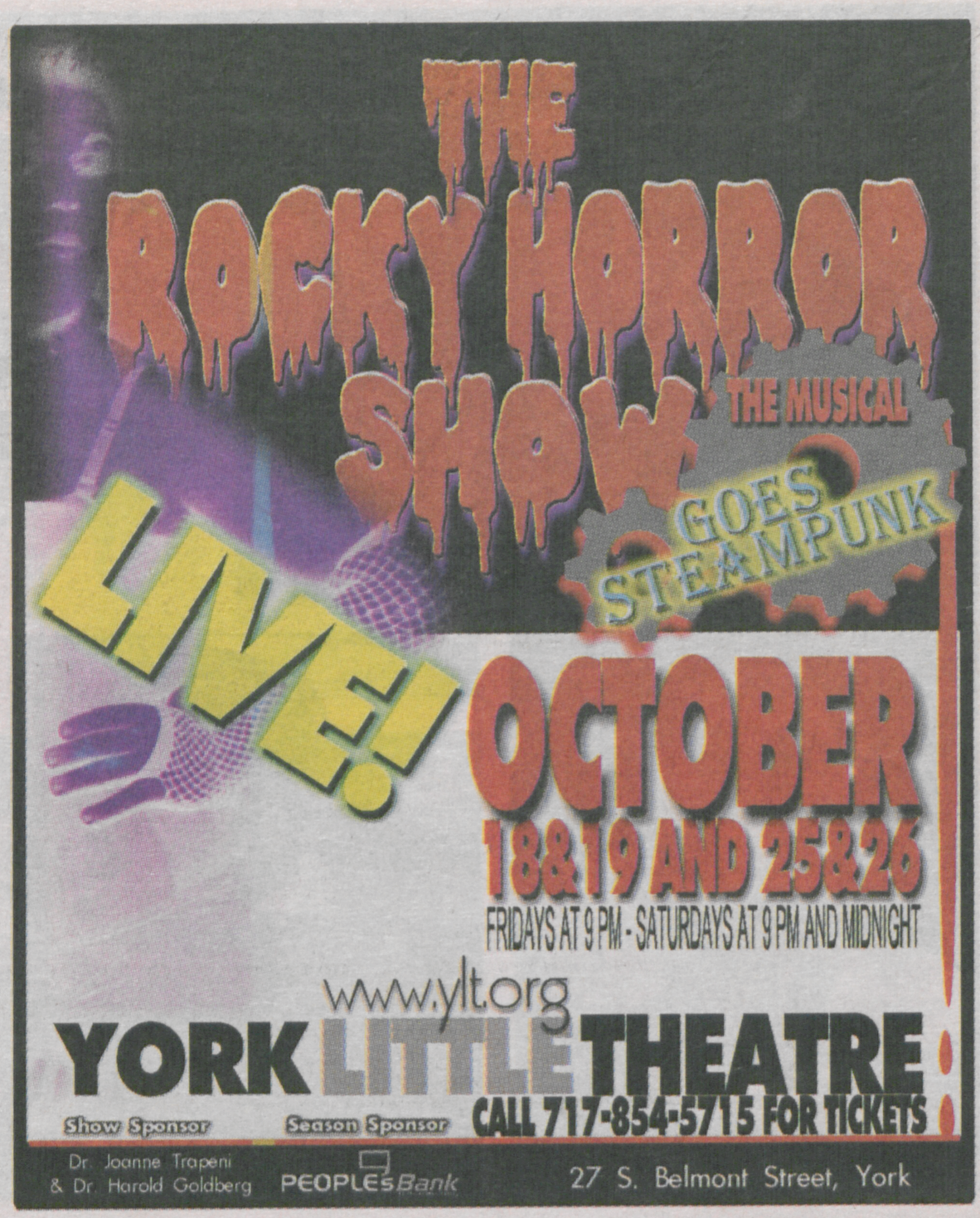

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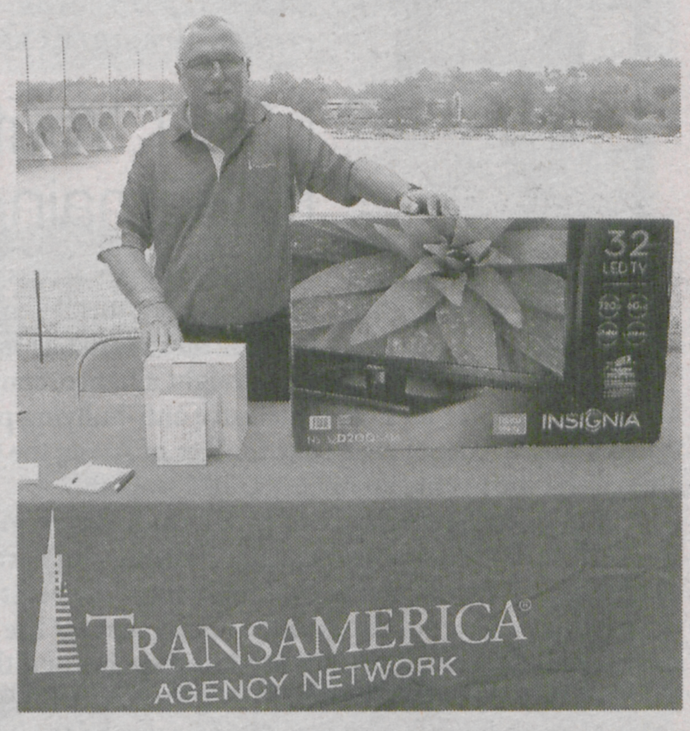
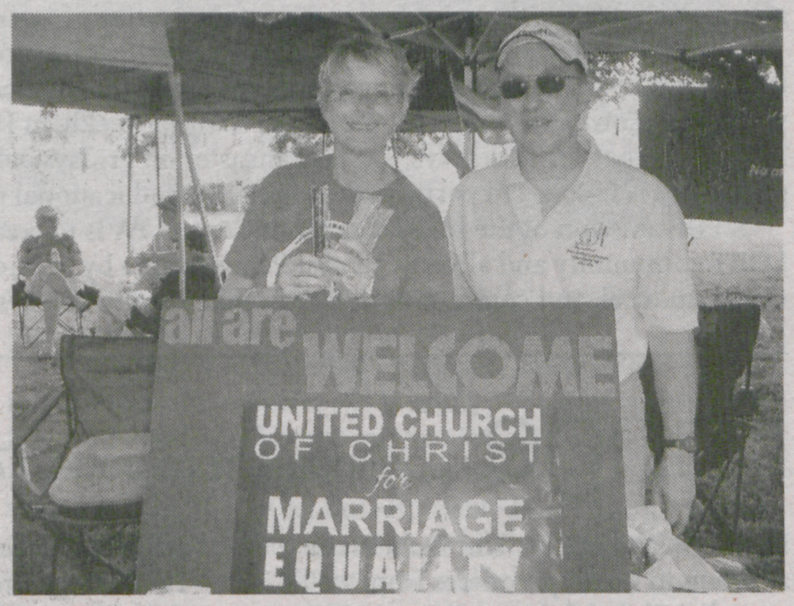




LGBT community center coalition

By Louie Marven
Executive Director
LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA

LGBT Youth Safety Needs to Remain Top Priority

As students across central Pennsylvania prepare to go back to school this fall, many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students in our region will look forward to starting a gay-straight alliance, connecting with a supportive teacher, and advocating for an LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying policy. Many other LGBT students will dread going to school every day for fear of facing the bullying and harassment that often goes along with being an openly LGBT student.

But does this narrative of LGBT students fearing a return to school capture the extent to which LGBT students experience bullying and harassment from their peers? Emerging discussions of the impact of cyberbullying—deliberate, hostile, and repeated harm using the Internet—have touched on the reality that for the contemporary student, bullying does not end after school. Rather, it can continue beyond the school day and beyond the school year through mediums like Facebook, Twitter, and text message.

Now we have the data to start to describe the scope of cyberbullying—and the extent to which it disproportionately impacts LGBT youth. A new report from the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) found that LGBT youth in grades six through twelve experience bullying and harassment online and through text message at far greater rates than their non-LGBT peers.

The report, called Out Online: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth on the Internet, is the first to examine these trends in depth. According to Out Online, 42% of LGBT youth said they had been bullied or harassed online compared to 15% of non-LGBT youth; 27% of LGBT youth said they had been bullied via text message compared to 13% of non-LGBT youth; and 32% of LGBT youth said they had been sexually harassed online compared to 8% of non-LGBT youth.

This data is another useful tool in understanding the oftentimes uneven progress the LGBT has made to date. We have celebrated the end of Don't Ask Don't Tell and, more recently, the Defense of Marriage Act. We have openly LGBT elected officials. We hear stories of LGBT youth coming out and becoming leaders in their schools and communities.

Amidst these outstanding victories, we have to remember the work we have yet to do. While LGBT youth are doing things that may have been unheard of in previous generations—like taking same-sex dates to prom and demanding transgender equality in schools—there remains a great need to ensure the safety of our LGBT youth. And now, it means considering the use of Internet communications in our anti-bullying work.

At the center, we welcome the start of a new year by providing technical assistance to the student and staff leadership of local gay-straight alliances. Local chapters of our youth program Common Roads continue to meet weekly in Harrisburg on Wednesdays, in Boiling Springs on Thursdays, and in Lancaster on Fridays, where LGBT youth ages 14-22 gather in a safe space to participate in social and educational programming.

The mission of the LGBT Center of Central PA is to create common ground for the LGBT community and allies in central Pennsylvania by providing services through educational, cultural, and community activities that foster wholeness.

Fringe continued from page 17

Hampton and author Tim Etchells, in addition to world premieres from well-regarded Philadelphia performers Brian Sanders and Geoff Sobelle and remounts of beloved Festival shows by Pig Iron Theatre Company and Swim Pony Performing Arts. Audiences can also expect incredible work from New York-based performers Reggie Wilson, Nature Theater of Oklahoma and Sō Percussion; and a world premiere visual art project, This Is Not Theater.

As FringeArts continues its tradition of providing an unjuried platform for artists to develop their visions in total freedom from curatorial barriers, hundreds more artists will participate in the Neighborhood Fringe to bring their work to Festival audiences. This confluence of risk-taking, independently produced shows animates the spaces of Philadelphia and enriches the city's communities.

"The Festival is the centerpiece event of what is now our 12-month programming schedule," says FringeArts President and Producing Director Nick Stuccio. "With the opening of our new space this fall, we'll create an important new venue on the waterfront to bring the newest and most cutting-edge art to Philadelphia year-round."

Hosted in venues all over Philadelphia, including traditional theater spaces, a historic penitentiary, a library, and FringeArts' new performance space at Race Street and Columbus Boulevard, the 2013 Fringe Festival is a platform for daring and innovative artists, bringing leaders of the contemporary performing arts world to Philadelphia stages and giving local performers a chance to showcase their best work. Each year, the Festival draws tens of thousands of people who come to experience Philadelphia's thriving cultural scene and interact with hundreds of artists at thousands of performances.

Tickets: FringeArts.com or 215-413-1318

Ex-Gay Pride Month Cancelled, No Participants

Truth Wins Out laughed at the cancellation of "Ex-Gay Pride Month 2013" by the newly formed group, Voice of the Voiceless (VOV), which announced it was putting the kybosh on a fancy gala it had planned with the Family Research Council on July 31.

The event had sought to portray "ex-gays" as victims and had invited Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-MN, and other members of Congress to attend the benefit.

"There was never going to be an actual 'Ex-gay Pride Month' because ex-gays are as rare as the Dodo bird," said Truth Wins Out's Executive Director Wayne Besen. "They simply could not find real 'ex-gays' to participate and had to cancel to save face. This was nothing but a desperate publicity stunt intended to revive a failing industry that has repeatedly embarrassed anti-gay organizations."

In response to VOV, Truth Wins Out had declared July "Ex-Gay Survivor Pride Month," to highlight those who had overcome harmful programs that aimed to change their sexual orientation. TWO had lined up several speakers for a press conference in Washington, DC on the 31.

VOV's Christopher Doyle offered unsubstantiated charges of "anti-ex-gay extremism" as his reason for terminating the much-ballyhooed event.

According to Doyle: "Due to some anti-ex-gay extremism that has occurred since we first announced Ex-Gay Pride 2013, the July 31 Lobbying Day on Capitol Hill and Evening Dinner/Reception at the Family Research Council has had to be moved and postponed to an undisclosed location in September. The harassment has caused several security threats which has forced us to change plans, and that is unfortunate.

"We challenge Doyle to come forward and release the names of LGBT activists and organizations that have allegedly jeopardized his organization's security," said TWO's Besen. "Until concrete allegations are made, we can only assume Dole is making an excuse for his organization's abject failure to produce a viable Ex-Gay Pride Month event. "

Doyle is downgrading his effort and rebranding it "Ex-Gay Awareness Month." This way, he can pretend there are legions of so-called ex-gays in press releases, without actually proving they truly exist. TWO says.

According to Doyle: "…We believe it is necessary not only to hold events in July for Ex-Gay Pride, but also to declare September as the First Annual Ex-Gay Awareness Month. Ex-Gay Awareness Month in September will be a time to reflect on the discrimination and marginalization that former homosexuals and ex-gays experience in the public at large. It will also provide some much needed exposure to students in secondary schools and colleges across the country to learn about the plights, challenges, and tribulations facing ex-gays in our culture."

The VOV event was intended to revive the failing "ex-gay" industry and distract people from the disastrous year 2013 has been for such programs. This has included the closing of Exodus International and the group's former poster boy, John Paulk, coming out.

In 1998, The Family Research Council was one of fifteen anti-gay organizations to sponsor the Truth in Love campaign, which touted "ex-gays" in full-page newspaper and television ads. Besen photographed one of the campaign's poster boys, John Paulk, in a DC gay bar in 2000. On April 24, 2013, Paulk apologized to the LGBT community and renounced the "ex-gay" myth saying: "Today, I do not consider myself 'ex-gay' and I no longer support or promote the movement."

A second FRC and Liberty Counsel poster boy from the 1998 campaign, Michael Johnston, had what anti-gay activists called a "moral fall" in 2003. Johnston moved to a Kentucky sex-addiction facility after Besen and Virginia attorney Michael Hamar discovered that the ex-gay leader was having unprotected sex in motel rooms with men he met on the Internet.

"Ex-Gay Pride month reminded me of a publicity stunt we have seen before," remarked Besen. "Prior to being disgraced, Michael Johnston founded National Coming Out of Homosexuality Day to mock the LGBT annual event, National Coming Out Day. We see how well that worked out for them."

The "ex-gay" industry appears to be a lost cause. A Newsweek poll in the summer of 1998 showed that 56% of the general public believed that homosexuals could become heterosexuals through therapy. Compare this to a March 2013 ABC News poll that showed just 24 percent of Americans see homosexuality as a choice.

> It doesn't make sense to me that you wouldn't be able to marry whomever you want to marry.
>
> – Adam Levine from MAROON 5

Grand Canyon and Flagstaff

The Grand Canyon has been showered with accolades as much as any of America's many spectacular national parks, yet few who visit this 300-mile-long gorge leave disappointed - it's one natural attraction that truly lives up to its considerable reputation. Many of the park's LGBT visitors combine their adventure with either a stay in rollicking Las Vegas or the groovy New Age town of Sedona, but don't overlook the nearest small city, Flagstaff. This laid-back, cultured, and pine-studded college town has plenty going for it and makes a terrific base for exploring northern Arizona.

The largest city on Interstate 40 between Los Angeles and Albuquerque, Flagstaff (flagstaffarizona.org) is known for its seemingly endless supply of inexpensive chain motels and restaurants. Sadly, too many road-tripping visitors never get much beyond the exit ramp before continuing on with their journeys. In fact, this well-kept, historic city of about 66,000 is worth getting to know - it's known for cool, dry summers and snowy but sunny winters, and has enough diversions and attractions to keep you busy for several days.

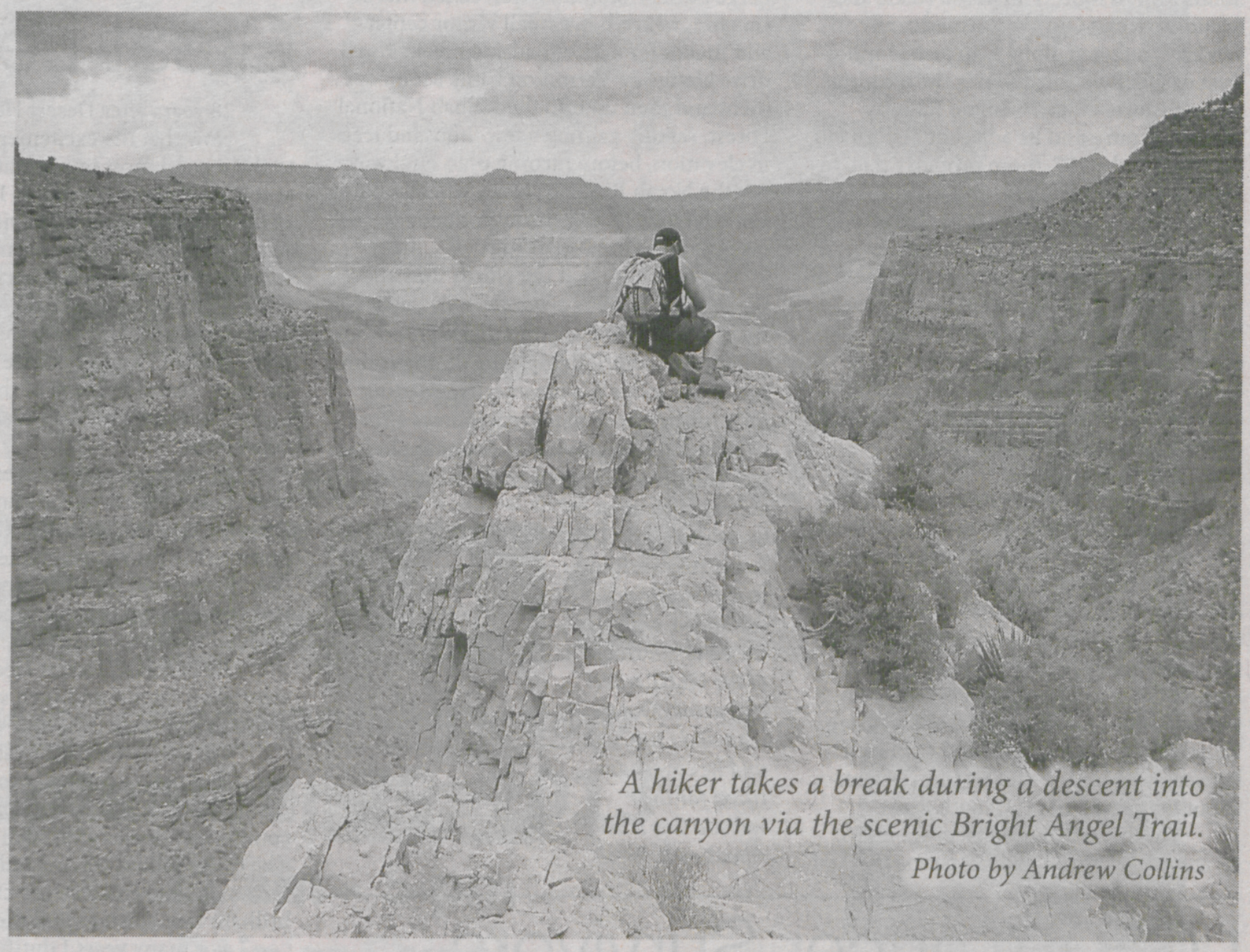
The presence of Northern Arizona University infuses Flagstaff with a youthful, bohemian personality that's enhanced by the many outdoorsy types who have settled here from smoggier and more crowded parts of the West. The gay scene is subtle but pronounced - plenty of gays and lesbians live here or nearby, and the rest of the population seems largely split between those who embrace diversity and those who simply don't care much about their neighbors' gender, race, or sexual orientation.

Activity in Flagstaff often revolves around the picturesque downtown, which is rife with Victorian and early 20th-century redbrick buildings that date to the city's early years as an Old West railroad hub. The Arizona Historical Society's Pioneer Museum, housed in a 1908 building constructed of rock deposited by an ancient volcanic eruption, traces the region's growth with a variety of artifacts and exhibits. The AHS's Riordan Mansion, an ornate Arts and Crafts mansion, is also open for tours - it was built by the same architect responsible for the Grand Canyon's iconic El Tovar Hotel. Be sure to see the Museum of Northern Arizona, which contains an outstanding collection of Native American arts and crafts and natural history exhibits. And keep your eyes and ears open for any events scheduled for the Coconino Center for the Arts, whose arts exhibits, musical performances, and workshops draw on different aspects of the American West, from Native American history to the contemporary cowboy's lifestyle.

Outdoors enthusiasts will find plenty to keep them busy. Reaching around the city on almost every side, Coconino National Forest contains the largest concentration of ponderosa pine trees in the world. There are many places within the forest where you can hike or mountain-bike. Just 15 miles northwest of town, the Arizona Snowbowl draws winter skiers to its 40 downhill runs and 2,300-foot vertical drop and offers a tram ride to an elevation of 11,500 feet during the warmer months.

Flagstaff Dining

Flagstaff has a lively and increasingly sophisticated dining scene full of excellent values. The hip Tinderbox Kitchen (tinderboxkitchen.com) focuses on slow food and regional ingredients with its superb and creative modern American cuisine. Criollo (criollolatinkitchen.com) attracts foodies with its finely crafted, upscale Latin American fare, while Cuvee 928 (cuvee928winebar.com) and Hops on Birch (hopsonbirch.com) appeal to wine and craft-beer fans, respectively. You can observe the local color at Mountain Oasis, a cute storefront cafe with tall windows and a handful of sidewalk tables; nosh on leafy salads, falafel plates, and fine coffees and microbrews. Beaver Street Brewery (beaverstreetbrewery.com) turns out great wood-fired gourmet pizzas, hefty burgers, and other hearty but often creative pub fare.



A hiker takes a break during a descent into the canyon via the scenic Bright Angel Trail.
Photo by Andrew Collins

Drop by Karma (karmaflagstaff.com) for the best sushi in town, and Pato (patothai.com) for artfully presented Thai food. Macy's European Coffeehouse & Bakery (macyscoffee.net) is a favorite of the gay community, known for delicious espresso drinks, hearty and healthy breakfasts, and decadent baked goods. While there are no gay bars in town, you'll often find LGBT folks at some of the restaurants above, at the lounge in the Hotel Monte Vista, and at eclectic bars like Pay 'N Take (payntake.com), the Green Room (flagstaffgreenroom.com), and Uptown Pub and Billiards (uptownpubhouse.net).

Flagstaff Hotels

A beautifully decorated, gay-friendly B&B, the nine-room Inn at 410 (inn410.com) dates to 1907. Rooms have canopied beds, local Southwestern and Indian arts and crafts, and fine original woodworking - the decorative themes vary considerably from room to room, and some units have fireplaces. On the east side of town, gay-owned Starlight Pines B&B (starlightpinesbb.com) is a richly furnished, four-room inn that's a favorite of couples seeking romance. You'll find a brass-accented fireplace and a long, deep claw-foot soaking tub in the Dragonfly Room, and two ground-floor accommodations enjoy easy access to the inn's dramatic 70-foot wraparound veranda.

A sponsor of Flagstaff's gay pride event in June, Pride in the Pines, the upscale, pet-friendly Woodlands Hotel (flagstaffwoodlandshotel.com) has 183 well-appointed rooms, a seasonal outdoor pool, and a recently renovated fitness center. The funky but affordable Hotel Monte Vista (hotelmontevista.com) has been an anchor of downtown Flagstaff since the 1920s - it's just a block north of historic Route 66. Numerous celebrities and dignitaries stayed here during the hotel's heyday.

Logistically, it's possible to use Flagstaff as a base for exploring the Grand Canyon (nps.gov/grca) on a daytrip. The town is just 75 minutes via U.S. 180 to the park's South Rim. This makes it possible to drive up for the day, check out a number of vantage points, embark on one or two short hikes along the rim, explore the visitor centers, and enjoy lunch and perhaps even dinner, while still being able to make it back to Flagstaff by late evening. For many visitors, especially those just passing through northern Arizona, this option makes good sense.

Park Lodgings

However, if you want to spend some quality time at the Grand Canyon, consider driving up to the South Rim and staying at one of the park lodgings (grandcanyonlodges.com), such as the famous and historic El Tovar, with its elegantly rustic rooms and atmospheric, old-fashioned dining room. It's easier to get a room with a true view of the canyon at the modern and extremely comfortable Kachina

continued on page 24

Out of Town continued from page 24

or Thunderbird Lodges, and next door at the 1935 Bright Angel Lodge & Cabins. For a room inside the park, especially at one of the properties near the canyon rim, reserve as far ahead as possible (up to a 13 months in advance). And don't assume all of the lodges nearest the rim are especially expensive; a standard room with a shared bath at Bright Angel Lodge costs under $100 nightly.

Another good strategy is staying 60 miles due south of the Grand Canyon's South Rim in little Williams, a rustic and friendly slice of Old West Americana conveniently situated along I-40 just 35 miles west of Flagstaff. The town is the terminus of the historic Grand Canyon Railway (thetrain.com), and its adjacent historic hotel. Parts of the 297-room property date to 1908, and an on-site pub and café provide sustenance as well as plenty of character. You can make the hotel your base camp and visit the Grand Canyon during the day by way of the vintage railway, which uses historic Pullman coaches as well as a variety of sleek first-class parlor and dome cars; trains leave in the morning and return by early evening. Or take the train to the park and spend a night or two there.

North Rim

Visiting the North Rim of the Grand Canyon offers tremendous rewards to those who make the considerable extra effort to go. The views are even better (it's at an elevation of 8,800 feet, nearly 2,000 feet higher than the South Rim), the crowds are fewer, and the ambience is less commercial, but this section of the park is open only mid-May through mid-October, weather permitting. To get here from Flagstaff, allow yourself between four and five hours (the distance is about the same from the South Rim).

This beautiful drive begins on U.S. 89 and passes through a landscape marked by frequent and dramatic changes in scenery. Along the way, you can make a small side trip to Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, a nearly 1,000-year-old volcano - hiking trails loop around but not actually inside the crater. U.S. 89 then curves up around the east side of the Grand Canyon; about 60 miles after passing through historic Cameron Trading Post (a good stop for a casual lunch or to shop for Native American collectibles), you bear left onto U.S. 89A and then cross over a narrow gorge of the Colorado River, called Marble Canyon, which has a small visitor center and makes for a nice roadside break. You'll drive alongside Vermilion Cliffs Monument and then up into the Kaibab National Forest, rapidly gaining a few thousand feet in elevation, before turning onto Highway 67 (the North Rim Parkway), which winds some 50 miles south through stands of evergreens to the North Rim.

The facilities at the North Rim are limited, but there is a wonderfully rustic old hotel, the Grand Canyon Lodge (grandcanyonforever.com/lodging); the dining room inside the lodge is a mesmerizing setting for a meal, whose massive windows afford tremendous canyon views. From the lodge, you can drive to several trails, which lead to some of the most breathtakingly beautiful overlooks in the Southwest.

Andrew Collins is the editor in chief of the GLBT travel magazines OutAloha and OutCity, and he covers gay travel for the website GayTravel.About.com.

LGBT Cancer Survivors Spotlight Cracks in System

The National LGBT Cancer Network has released a new report using the direct experiences of cancer survivors to paint a stark picture of the effect of discrimination on LGBT health.

The free, downloadable booklet, "LGBT Patient Centered Outcomes," uses the findings to suggest practical recommendations for improving health care for LGBT people.

"When we asked cancer survivors to tell us what they wanted health care providers to know, we were saddened, angered and moved by many of their stories; cancer is enough of a burden, no one should have to endure the discrimination, alienation, and, in some cases, less than adequate care because of who they are," said Liz Margolies, Executive Director of the National LGBT Cancer Network.

Quotes from study participants highlight her point:

"I was never out during the whole process to anyone. I had no one in the hospital or doctor visit me for fear of my gayness being discovered and then the doctors 'accidentally' not removing all the cancer lesions."

"It is important to know where it is safe to bring a partner, because my family hates me and even my mother told me right before the surgery that she hoped I would die in surgery and that she wished I had never been born."

"As an alone, aging senior, I am also dealing with fear of rejection by being "out" even though I was very "out" when younger and in a partnership."

"Although my doctor knew all about me, each encounter with new people—with blood draws, ultrasound, breast x-ray, etc.—had the basic anxiety of the procedure and layered on to that, the possibility of homophobia and having to watch out for myself.

"Being a Lesbian facing having your breasts cut off, it would be good if they did not assume you were concerned about how "men" would see you in the future!"

"I believe my perceived orientation allowed my caregivers to give superficial care, and my own latent shame allowed me to accept a quick and incorrect diagnosis of health. "

Link to the report: www.cancernetwork.org

thinking out loud

By Abby Dees

What I mean by a "real lesbian movie" is: There were no vampires, no suicides, no one running back to men, and no psychopaths in the movie.

Still Waiting for a Great Lesbian Movie

28 years after Desert Hearts, lesbian cinema hasn't changed much.

Now that the excitement of the DOMA case has mellowed, my thoughts have turned to the second most important LGBT pride moment of my life: the release of Desert Hearts at my local movie theater in 1985. I'd never seen so many lesbians standing in one line as there were that night, buying tickets because they'd all heard that a real lesbian movie was here at last. What I mean by a "real lesbian movie" is: There were no vampires, no suicides, no one running back to men, and no psychopaths in the movie. Up until then, that's pretty much what you got if you wanted to see a movie with a bit of lesbian in it. A simple, stylized, and otherwise unremarkable film, Desert Hearts hit it out of the park with every lesbian I knew because the romantic leads were likeable and they stayed together in the end. Years later, one of the actresses, Helen Shaver, remarked that she will never have to fear becoming homeless, as there are thousands of grateful lesbians who would happily take her in.

In fairness, two years earlier the gentle and cerebral lesbian-themed film, Lianna, beat Desert Hearts to the punch by two years, but that film suffered from one key problem: Director John Sayles, a straight man, bent over backwards to be sensitive to lesbians, right down to the gauze over the lens during the sex scenes. At least it was a click up on the passion meter from 1980's Personal Best, which presented lesbian intimacy as nothing more than a naked tickle game (and especially notable for Mariel Hemingway's whining), so I applaud Sayles for the effort.

By contrast, Desert Hearts was made by a lesbian, and captured a certain lesbian sensibility, humor and even some sweaty sex. What a revelation. Thus began the golden age of lesbian cinema.

I'm sorry. I meant to say, thus began a random trickle of cringe-worthy lesbian indie films, and the occasionally redeeming art-house flick. It seemed that ever after, most so-called "lesbian films" functioned as a kind of home-made therapy device, typically telling coming out stories with such heavy-handed earnestness that all irony got smothered with a lavender pillow, leaving only two-dimensional fantasy versions of lesbian lives. I mean, how many esteemed closet-case professors can there be out there just waiting for a sexy, brilliant free-spirit to pull them out of their ivory towers?

For many years I dutifully saw each new lesbian flick, hoping for something fresh and challenging, and then nearly always forgot the film moments after tossing my popcorn tub into the trash. Don't even get me started on Clare of the Moon.

Today I watched a 2013 Outfest film called, Who's Afraid of Vagina Wolf [sic] I can't say it was bad, because it had cool lines like this: "I don't like improvisation. It's like leaving an open window into your soul and all the little squirrels can crawl in and raid your panties." At least there's some room for edginess in lesbian cinema now. That's an improvement. But I was still too aware of a self-conscious "Hey kids, let's make a movie!" quality throughout, which was unfortunate, as the film is about a bunch of people doing just that.

I want a lot more after all this time, which may just be too bad for me. In another unwittingly apt line from Vagina Wolf, a film producer quips, "Gays and lesbians have the same s%#tty taste as everybody else." Movies rarely equal art. Back in '85, I was a newly out baby dyke and desperate to see my most ridiculous lesbian romance fantasies projected on a big movie. I must have seen Desert Hearts five times the week it came out, but frankly it wasn't a great film. I didn't care, because how could I resist an escapist romp with a sexy ingénue who enters the film driving backwards in a convertible, full-speed, to say hello to the brilliant female professor that's just come to town?

Carry on, all you makers of "lesbian films." There's always going to be an appreciative lesbian audience, but can you aim high every now and then?

Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25+ years.

"My uncle Mike been with my uncle Frank for 35 years. I grew up never seeing a difference between gay and straight people. [Acceptance] has got to start in the home"

Michael Bublé

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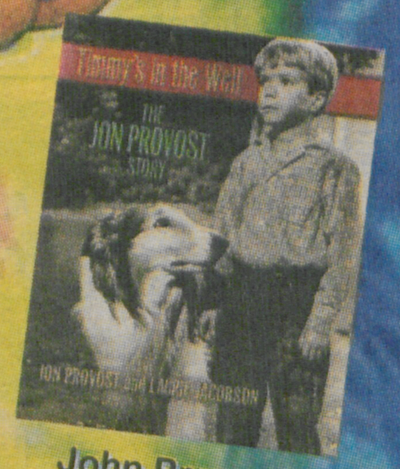

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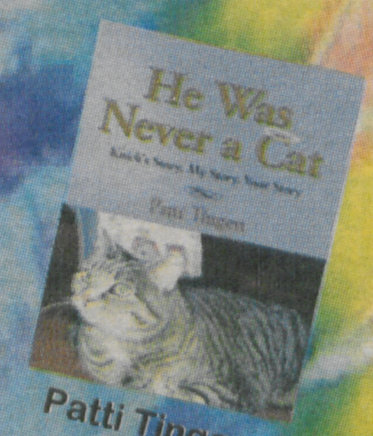

Patti Tingen

Larry Levin and "Oogy"

Join CPAA for the largest outdoor festival in Central PA dedicated to our four-legged friends. In this our ninth year, we welcome back the wonderful Larry Levin, NY Times Best Selling Author of* Oogy, A Dog Only a Family Could Love, *and Oogy. We also welcome Jon Provost, who played Timmy in the long-running "Lassie Series, along with Robert Weatherwax, son of Lassie's trainer, the great Rudd Weatherwax. You will also get to meet Hammer, eleventh-generation Weatherwax collie!

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It Takes a 6-year-old

It all started with a 6-year-old girl who wanted to take a stand against the Westboro Baptist Church and promote peace, reported The Huffington Post. Now, it is a national event.

Back in June, Jayden Sink decided to set up a pink lemonade stand at the Equality House in Topeka, Kan. The colorful resource center - established by nonprofit Planting Peace as the resource center for all of its equality and anti-bullying initiatives - sits directly across from the Westboro Baptist Church's compound.

After hearing that Westboro members promote messages of hate, Jayden decided she wanted to raise money toward spreading messages of love and peace. So she turned to pink lemonade to help her do the job.

Jayden's act of kindness went viral (and even earned her the title of MSNBC host Melissa Harris-Perry's "Foot Soldier of the Week"). The Kansas City girl has since raised more than $23,000 via a CrowdRise campaign.

On Aug. 10, Jayden set up her last lemonade stand of the summer season but wants to get other children across the nation involved. So far, 70 stands are already confirmed, with kids participating as far away as England. All the money will go toward Equality House's anti-bullying initiatives.

Back in 2011, Brandt Hardin, a pop surrealist illustrator and designer living and working out of Clarksville, TN, allowed *Central Voice* to publish his art image when Fred Phelps Westboro Baptist Church threatened (but reneged) to protest during a funeral service for Perry County's Clouse family. On March 8, 2011, Ted and Janelle Clouse lost seven of their children - age nine months to 11 years old - in a tragic fire. About a month later, the community planted seven dogwood trees and seven azaleas at Blain Elementary School in memory of the children.

Westboro Baptist Church may believe God Hates Fags but children like Jayden believe otherwise.

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Dan Miller Back in Mayor's Race

Openly-gay Dan Miller is back in the Harrisburg City mayoral race. The current city Controller and former one-term city council member ran in the Democratic Primary and also cross-filed, and won, the Republican nomination. Upon loosing the Democratic Primary to Eric Papenfuse, he initially decided not to run as a Republican. Upon learning that the other candidates' names on the ballot had been challenged, he jumped back into the race August 8.

August 15 Dauphin County Judge Bernard Coates announced his decision. The two other candidates on the ballot, Independent Nevin Minlin, and Nate Curtis, running as "Curtis for Mayor", had been tossed by the judge's ruling. Mindlin lost because he failed to name a committee of three to five people to name a replacement should he not run. Curtis' name was removed from the ballot because he did not complete a mandatory, one-year city residency requirement. At press time, Mindlin said he would forge ahead with his campaign despite the ruling. He will also consider an appeal. Lewis Butts will run a write-in campaign.

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York's LUX Night Lounge Open

After officially launching in July, York's LUX Night Lounge offers a full-scale lgbt nightclub venue located at 1327 N. Duke Street, in North York. "We're the region's newest dance club venue," says Travis McCarter, Entertainment and Public Relations Director and Head Bartender.

Well-known in the area, McCarty most recently served in both managerial and bartender capacities at Club XS. Stephen Perko Jr. is LUX owner.

Hours of operation are Thursday through Sunday, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. There is free parking in the club's lot and nearby on the street. The club can host a capacity of 350 in two large spaces – an enclosed Lounge with barside and other seating and a Dance Area with VIP Seating, table top and lounge areas. The venue nine large screen displays and a 14-foot projection screen in the Dance Area.

"We have a total of 4,000 square feet of space for our customers to enjoy," Perko Jr. says.

Revelers may remember LUX initiated G.A.Y. Night September 2012 "which has been successful ever since," McCarty says. That special night continues.

LUX owner Stephen Perko and Entertainment & PR Director Travis McCarty.

The new venue will have three bartenders and two Bottle Service Attendees in service to customers and eight to 10 Security Staff on duty. "Our Weekend Presentation will include DJ's from all over the US and the region. We're offering a fun dancing atmosphere," McCarty says.

McCarty is also planning Drag Shows, Bear and Leather Nights, Ladies Meet and Greets. "We're also working on live performances from some stars and appearances by Reality TV celebrities. Sunday is Karaoke Night. Info: 717.793.377.

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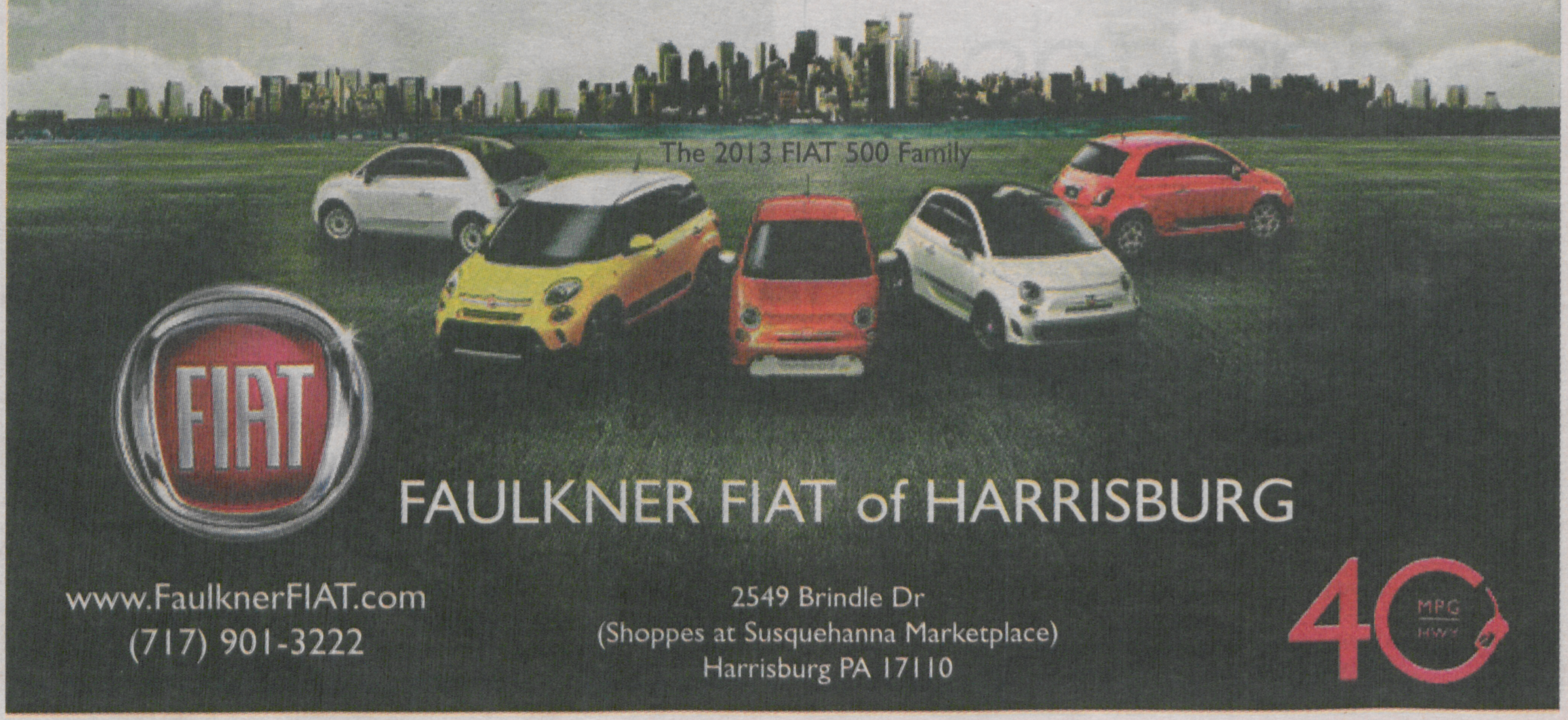

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40 MPG HWY

Chamber on the move

By Bill Krenz, Vice President

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
GAY AND LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Holtgate Podiatry Featured Chamber Business

When Dr. Peter Holtz and Chris Gatesman relocated their podiatry practice to Central Pennsylvania, multiple concerns were quickly allayed when they become involved with the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

First, they needed professional help located in the area to assist them in getting settled.

After they joined the CPGLCC, they quickly found a realtor, bank, lawyer, dentist, and assistance with marketing all of which were 'allies' to the LGBT community and their needs. Holtz commented, "We were new to the area, and we found immediate resources through the chamber. It was wonderful to find friends and allies right away within the community."

Gatesman found the chamber welcoming.

In addition to finding professional services to assist the business's start, they found many social friends, and their client base actually started with some of the chamber members.

When they opened their practice in Lemoyne, they were not a known entity in Central Pennsylvania. "We had a great practice in Virginia, and with our decision to relocate we were beginning anew and needed to earn respect here," Holtz commented.

As their practice started, referrals began to come in and more community connections were made, resulting in an association with Holy Spirit Health System. Today, Holtgate Podiatry is on solid ground and enjoys a strong client base.

Vocational Group

An interesting story developed when a York vocational group used the chamber's web site list of members. The group was looking to find an internship for an openly gay, medical assistant student. It was important to identify an LGBT friendly doctor's office.

The group contacted Holtz and explained the situation to him. He used his connections and helped launch the search for an appropriate internship placement for the student.

'This inquiry came out of the blue, and thanks to the web site member listing, we were able to provide assistance to someone in the community we didn't even know', Holtz explained.

In summary, Holtz and Gatesman are a couple who had recently relocated to the region. Through their membership in the chamber they were able to establish their business, start their client base, and develop a social network of friends.

Past Events

June 26, the Harrisburg Regional Chamber honored Russ Boggs, current treasurer, and past president and CEO, with a Diversity Honoree Award, at the 6th Annual Celebrate Diversity Reception at the Harrisburg Civil War Museum. Frank Miles, of Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, a strong chamber ally, was also honored.

July 25 mixer was held at St@rtUp Harrisburg, the first co-working space here in the area hosted by Adam Brackbill and Adam Porter.

August 29 mixer was sponsored by TransCentralPA, at the residence of Jeanine Ruhsam, TransCentralPA president, and owner of Ruhsam Building and Design, Ltd.

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 19 mixer event will be held at The Paper Lion Gallery, Lemoyne.
Oct. 17 mixer will be held at the new Alder Health Services' Lancaster Office.
Info: www.cpglcc.org

Labor Dept. Expands Family and Medical Leave to Gay Couples

The U.S. Labor Department has issued guidance to inform employers, employees, and federal courts about an important change under the Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down the Defense of Marriage Act. According to the new guidance, the FMLA now protects gay and lesbian married couples. FMLA entitles eligible employees of covered employers to take unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons. Prior to the ruling against DOMA, the Labor Department didn't require employers to grant married gay couples leave if one spouse in the relationship fell ill and needed care because DOMA prohibited federal recognition of same-sex marriage. But with DOMA out of the picture, the Obama administration is free to enforce FMLA on behalf of married same-sex couples. Gay and lesbian employees can also enforce their FMLA rights in federal court.

arts & entertainment

MAJESTIC THEATRE
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Josh Ritter
Sept. 28, 8 p.m.

With startling detail, distinctive storytelling, compelling subject matter and astonishing musicianship, Ritter has developed a singular voice that doesn't defy categorization so much as it creates its own. Idaho born singer-songwriter Josh Ritter has been called one of the "10 Most Exciting Artists Now" by Entertainment Weekly and one of the "100 Best Living Songwriters" by Paste Magazine.The New York Times praises: "Josh Ritter has a way with metaphor. It's one of the literary touches in his music that have established him among the cream of the young singer-songwriter crop." His sixth studio album "The Beast In It's Tracks" was released in March to more critical acclaim with NPR Music calling it "gorgeous and glorious."

Voice Play
Oct. 26, 8 p.m.

Based in Orlando, VoicePlay has been shattering the a cappella stereotype since 2000 with their powerful performances across the U.S. and around the world. Evolving from a street corner barbershop sound and drawing on funk, rock, jazz and blues, VoicePlay is unlike any musical experience around. The group recreates an entire instrumental band with nothing but their five voices – a feat which has to be seen in order to be believed! They are able to bring timeless, classic music to life with renewed freshness and infuse their beautiful harmonies with a lovable sense of humor and style all their own. VoicePlay is blazing new trails and winning the hearts and imaginations of audiences big and small and of every race, creed, sex and age.
Tickets: 717-337-8200; majestictheater@gettysburg.edu

STAND CAPITAL

Bill Maher
Oct. 26, 7:30pm

For the last eighteen years, Bill Maher has set the boundaries of where funny, political talk can go on American television. First on Politically Incorrect (Comedy Central, ABC, 1993-2002), and for the last seven years on HBO's Real Time, Maher's combination of unflinching honesty and big laughs have garnered him twenty-one Emmy nominations. In October of 2008, this same combination was on display in Maher's uproarious and unprecedented swipe at organized religion, Religulous, directed by Larry Charles ("Borat"). The documentary has gone on to become the 7th highest grossing documentary ever.
Info: http://www.mystrandcapitol.org

OPEN STAGE OF HARRISBURG

GIDION'S KNOT
Oct 4 - 26

Over the course of a 90-minute parent/teacher conference, a grieving mother and an emotionally overwhelmed primary school teacher have a fraught conversation about the tragic suicide of the mother's son, the teacher's student, Gidion. Gidion may have been bullied severely -- or he may have been an abuser. As his story is slowly uncovered, the women try to reconstruct a satisfying explanation for Gidion's act and come to terms with excruciating feelings of culpability. Adams does not spare sensitivities and her play is uncomfortable and shattering. This is a play that runs its course like an rabid dog that won't let go. Mature audiences. 90 mins., no Intermission, followed by talkback discussion.

SHARADIN BIGLER THEATRE
EPHRATA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Glass Menagerie
Sept 5-7, Sept 12-14 and Sept 18-21

Tennessee Williams' revered memory play is an American classic. Set in the Wingfield family's humble St. Louis apartment, the family's lovingly domineering mother, Amanda (long ago abandoned by her husband, "a telephone man who fell in love with long distances"), tries to hold the family together. But Amanda's nagging threatens to drive away her son, Tom, an aspiring writer who feels trapped by responsibility for his mother and his painfully shy sister, Laura.

Assassins
Oct 17-19, Oct 24-26 and Oct 30-Nov 2

A smash hit for EPAC in 2000, this 1991 Stephen Sondheim stunner frames portraits of multiple presidential assassins and wannabes — from John Wilkes Booth through Lee Harvey Oswald — in the garish setting of a carnival shooting gallery. Rather than offend by glorifying these misfits and misguided "patriots," Assassins personalizes them with piercing insight, comedy and pathos.
Buy Tickets Online; Phone: (717) 733-7966

HERSHEY THEATRE

Ghost The Musical
Oct. 29-Nov. 3

Relive the iconic and magical moments from the Oscar-winning movie Ghost in a brand-new Broadway musical. Ghost The Musical breathes glorious new life into a timeless love story. Adapted from the hit film by its Academy Award-winning screenwriter Bruce Joel Rubin, Ghost The Musical follows Sam and Molly, a young couple whose connection takes a shocking turn after Sam's untimely death. Trapped between two worlds, Sam refuses to leave Molly when he learns she is in

continued on page 30

grave danger. Desperate to communicate with her, he turns to a storefront psychic who helps him protect Molly and avenge his death. Recommended for ages 12+, mild violence, mature themes and dialogue true to the story and plot. Parental guidance is suggested.
Tickets: 717-534-3405, 1-800-745-3000, HersheyTheatre.com.

WHITAKER CENTER

Sunoco Performance Theater
Farm to Talbot's Table: Sam Talbot of Bravo's Top Chef
Sept. 28, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Sam Talbot is a chef, author and television personality. In the Summer of 2013, Sam become chef and co-owner of TURF, a mobile kitchen and restaurant that serves farm to beach food out on Long Island's East End. He was recently a host of AOL's GMC "Trade Secrets" online show. He is also the former founding Executive Chef of the Surf Lodge in Montauk, NY (which he left in Spring 2012) and Imperial No. Nine, a sustainable seafood restaurant located in the Mondrian Soho Hotel in New York City. He is also the author of "The Sweet Life: Diabetes without Boundaries," which was published by Rodale Books.
Sunoco Performance Theater
Tickets: 717-214-ARTS (2787)

United Nations Launches Rights Campaign

The United Nations launched a public education campaign designed to increase support for LGBT rights around the world. The "Free & Equal" campaign stresses the "need for both legal reforms and public education to counter homophobia and transphobia." The UN will produce a number of videos that are similar to the one it released in May to mark the annual International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. In 2011, the UN adopted a resolution in support of LGBT rights. Singers Ricky Martin and Daniela Mercury and Bollywood actress Celina Jaitly are among those who have pledged to support the campaign.

WoofStock: A "Canine Explosion" Barks Sept. 29

The Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance hosts its ninth year of WoofStock Sun., Sept. 29, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Harrisburg's Riverfront Park. The popular pet-friendly festival grew from 40 vendors in 2005 to 180 vendors last year.

"This is the day the dogs come out to play!' said Pat Dravk, WoofStock committee principal. The event has a serious message. "It was created as a huge adoption event. To bring together all the rescue and shelter facilities in central Pennsylvania and beyond so we can help their animals get adopted," Dravk tells Central Voice.

The venue is also the region's main effort to educate the public on the importance of spaying and neutering and the importance of kindness to animals.

WoofStock was voted "Readers Choice" in the free entertainment category by Harrisburg Magazine readers in 2011 through 2013. For 2013 the event was also voted "Readers Choice" in the "Themed Fundraising" category.

Attendees meet adoptable animals, animal-related celebrities and authors.

The wonderful Larry Levin, author of New York Times Best Seller "Oogy, A Dog Only a Family Could Love" returns to WoofStock, along with the one and only Oogy, for a book signing benefitting CPAA.

National treasure ,Jon Provost, who played Timmy in the "Lassie" TV series, will be on hand to sign his book "Timmy's in the Well".

Bob Weatherwax ,famed Hollywood dog trainer & son of the late Rudd Weatherwax, who established the famous line of Lassies will be accompanied by his 11th generation Weatherwax Collie "Hammer" and Cairn Terrier " Throttle". The original Lassie was Bob's babysitter.

Music, Food

Listen to bands and acoustics performers throughout the day and enjoy the popular Funkytown Pet Costume Contest at 1p.m. Stop by CPAA's WoofStock raffle and t-shirt booths. Food is also available from vendors.

Attendees can pay tribute to a special person or pet with a $10 donation to WoofStock. Loved ones will be recognized on the WoofStock website - http://www.cpaawoofstock.com/.

Silent Auction

New this year is a Silent Auction of custom painted dog houses from the "Dog Days of Summer" fundraiser hosted by Downtown After Dark. Photos are available at http://www.cpaawoofstock.com/.

CPAA is an all-volunteer, non-profit alliance of individuals and local animal rescues working together to save the lives of dogs and cats through aggressive spay/neuter programs, adoptions, and public outreach and education. Info: http://www.cpaa.info.

FAB Benefit for Community Center Nov. 9

Three individuals and one school district will receive the 2013 FAB Award Nov. 9 at the 2013 Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB) Harrisburg Hilton.

FAB is the region's premier gala fundraiser for the LGBT Community Center Coalition.

The black tie optional event raises funds allowing the center to continue providing a safe and welcoming safe space, as well as comprehensive programs throughout the community.

The event features New York City based graphic character artist Tyler Wallach.

Recognized this year for their support and dedication to the region's LGBT community are Barry Loveland, Rachel Imboden, LSW; Russell A. Boggs, and the Carlisle Area School District are this year's award winners.

This year also celebrates 20 years of Common Roads, a center program. Common Roads is a youth program providing education, advocacy, and programming to empower LGBTQ youth throughout the region.

Artist Tyler Wallach

Award winners are:

Barry Loveland, Rachel Imboden, LSW, Russell A. Boggs, Carlisle Area School District

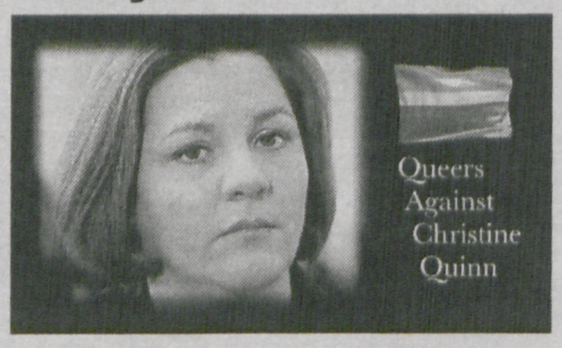
Featured artist Tyler Wallach's Cloudz by Ty is inspired by all things rainbow-bright, psychedelic, and colorful. The Texan

implant to Brooklyn has had his work shown in New York City, Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago. Having been included in art shows nationwide, Wallach is bringing his bright-colored street characters to the event.

Cocktail hour and Silent Auction begin at 6:30PM. Gala doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are $125, or $100 if ordered before October 1, 2013.

Anyone but Christine: Queers against Quinn at NYC Pride



Central Voice has reported and written on the theme of "It's about policy, not people".

If assimilation means that our lgbt-status is no more important than anyone else's sexuality - i.e., it's not special in any way - then what makes us who we are is what we stand for.

We reprint here an interesting story regarding the candidacy of Christine Quinn, a lesbian running for mayor of New York City. Some in the lgbt community have proffered the position that she deserves NYC lgbt voter support becuase she is, well, an open lesbian. Others in the lgbt community have said that's not enough - her policies should determine if she gets the lgbt vote, or anyone's vote for that matter.

A group organized an "Anyone But Christine: Queers Against Quinn" at the June NYC Pride Parade:

It's vitally important that LGBT people not waste their votes on Democratic Party hacks who happen to be gay, without

continued on page 31

noah's ark veterinary center

By Dr. Jose Venereo

Noah's Ark Veterinary Center: My name is Sassy

"My name is Sassy. I am a 7 year old border collie. I was purchased from a local pet store when I was only five months old. My parents had been told that I did not need to see a veterinarian because I already had all of my shots. Because of this I was not seen by a vet until I started to have accidents in the house. I was very thirsty and kept having to urinate several times throughout the day.

At first my parents thought I was being spiteful, but then I got really sick. I stopped eating, which is unusual because I love food. Thankfully, I was taken to a vet who diagnosed me with pyometra, a severe infection of the uterus. He had to perform an emergency surgery to remove the infected uterus before the situation got worse. Had my parents waited another day I may have died due to the infection spreading throughout my belly…"

Pyometra is a very serious disease that affects many female dogs as they age. The condition is caused by the hormonal changes of the female reproductive cycle. This change may cause uterus to become infected and fill up with pus.

In extreme situations the uterus can rupture and cause a severe infection and potentially lead to death. The most common signs of pyometra are excessive thirst, increased need to urinate, weakness, and lack of appetite. Sometimes vaginal discharge may be seen at the same time.

The condition is diagnosed with blood work and X-rays.

Once your pet is diagnosed and properly stabilized, the treatment of choice is an ovariohisterectomy (or spay). Although this condition is an infection, antibiotic therapy alone usually is not enough. If treated in time, many dogs recover from emergency surgery successfully.

The best way to prevent this debilitating and potentially deadly disease is by spaying your pet at an early age. Where when done as a routine surgery early in your pets life (about five to six months of age), the procedure is much safer, with a faster recovery time, and is also more cost effective.

Hint: Spaying your pet does not make him/her "fat and lazy". Although, their metabolism may slow down, proper diet and exercise will prevent your pet from becoming obese…..

Noah's Ark Veterinary Center, 6325 Chelton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17112, (717)652-5923

Liz Bradbury Wins Literary Award

Allentown resident author and LGBT community activist Liz Bradbury recently won a top award in Lesbian Fiction in the Mystery category for her book Being the Steel Drummer - A Maggie Gale Myster - at the Golden Crown Literary Society Conference.

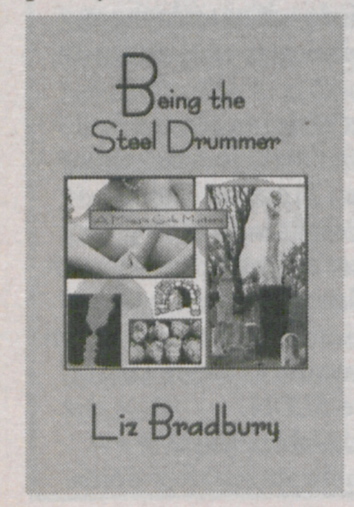
The 6th Annual five day GCLS Conference, which is attended yearly by hundreds of well-known lesbian writers, publishers, and lesbian fiction fans was held in Dallas.

Bradbury's award winning book is the second book in the Maggie Gale Series.

"I was sure I wasn't going to win, the other finalists are all exceptional writers," Bradbury said. "I am very excited about this, and grateful to Golden Crown." Other finalists in the category included mainstream mystery writer and multi - Lambda award winner Ellen Hart. The other two Mystery Awards were won by Anne Laughlin and Jessie Chandler.

Liz Bradbury

There were 34 "Goldie Award" winners in 15 separate categories that ranged from poetry to erotica to historical fiction. Among them only two were published by the author themselves. Bradbury was one of the two. She likes to encourage people to publish their own work, which she says has become much easier and more lucrative to do with the advent of print-on-demand and the high author royalties available through e-publishing. Bradbury speaks frequently on self-publishing to college students and aspiring authors and has presented a national webinar on the topic.



Bradbury's first book Angel Food and Devil Dogs - A Maggie Gale Mystery, was critically acclaimed and was a finalist for "Goldie" Awards in both the Debut Author and Mystery categories but did not win a top prize. "My books are figure-out-the-clues style mysteries," explained Bradbury, "but they are also sexy romances, with strong, out, Lesbian characters. That seems to strike two chords with readers."

Does Scholarship Fund Finance Junkets for State Lawmakers?

"While we recognize the American Legislative Exchange Council's right to push it's legislative agenda, we also must insist that they obey the law when lobbying," says Barry Kauffman, executive director of Common Cause/PA.

According to a news release by Common Cause's national office and the Center for Media and Democracy, ALEC is running a secretive, multi-million dollar slush fund that finances lavish trips for state legislators. The council has misled the Internal Revenue Service about the fund's activity, the two government watchdog groups have charged.

CC and CMD said the "scholarship fund" scheme also raises serious questions about ALEC's compliance with state gift and disclosure laws, and the ethics of lawmakers who accept ALEC's travel payments.

Common Cause/PA has called on the State Ethics Commission and the Attorney General "to review ALEC's registration as a charity and whether its lobbying activities in Pennsylvania are being properly disclosed," Kauffman says.

"ALEC cannot be permitted to use subterfuge and legal prestidigitation to evade requirements to register as lobbyists and disclose to the public the issues they are attempting to influence, how much they are spending to have their way, and which public officials are the beneficiaries of the gifts, travel and other benefits they provide," Kauffman says.

According to Pennsylvania law, much of what ALEC does is lobbying that must be reported.

Kauffman says CC is basically asking that ALEC be required to comply with the law in the same manner as all other lobbyists and citizens.

The watchdogs said in a recent news release that by funneling money through ALEC, that group's corporate sponsors are able to take a federal tax deduction for the cost of wining, dining and housing lawmakers and their families at resorts and events like ALEC's 40th anniversary meeting held in early August 7-9 at Chicago's posh Palmer House Hilton. Meanwhile, ALEC conceals the sources of the funds from the public and hides the amount of spending from the IRS by claiming that it only holds the funds in "trust," while writing lawmakers' checks to cover their trips the news release claims.

"ALEC is a corporate lobby front group masquerading as a public charity on the taxpayers' dime. Pennsylvanians shouldn't have to subsidize ALEC's agenda to limit voting rights, undermine our public schools, spread Stand Your Ground gun laws, and weaken laws protecting our environment."

CC and CMD laid out details of the fund's operation in an IRS tax whistleblower complaint and letter to the IRS Commissioner.

The groups have built their case based on documents obtained through open records requests, and are taking a number of actions to urge a crackdown on the ALEC fund's operation.

COMPANY DONATION

PhRMA **$398,351.87**	**Pfizer Inc** **$54,905.72**
AT & T **$101,848.00**	**Crown Cork & Seal Company** **$54,000.00**
Bayer HealthCare **$78,800.00**	**Altria** **$40,000.00**
Eli Lilly **$70,750.00**	**Verizon** **$37,000.00**
US Tobacco **$63,250.00**	**Blue Cross Blue Shield** **$36,750.00**

Quinn continued from page 30

first demanding genuine leadership and accomplishments that benefit the community, as they climb up the political ladder.

If you're in the New York and New Jersey area on Sunday, please join this contingent at New York City's Parade.

The Queers Against Christine Quinn has created political space that allows for much-needed criticism of her and her policies that will in essence be another term for Mayor Michael Bloomberg, if she is elected mayor of New York. The group has staged protests outside her fundraisers, picketed the New York Times for their soft-glove coverage of Quinn's tenure as City Council Speaker and maintains a web site about her and their efforts to hold her accountable.

As if that weren't enough, a leading Quinn critic, Louis Flores, has written a book called "The Roots of Betrayal: The Ethics of Christine Quinn" to inform voters and potential donors about her self-serving political career.

Court Awards Death Benefits to Survivor

Judge C. Darnell Jones II of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania ordered payment of death benefits to Jennifer Tobits, the widow of Sarah Ellyn Farley, under a profit-sharing plan administered by Farley's employer, the law firm Cozen O'Conner P.C.

The court held that because the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was recently struck down as unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court, federally-regulated retirement and benefit plans must recognize the legal marriages of same-sex couples for purposes of spousal benefits such as those due to Tobits.

The court's decision relied on the Supreme Court's June 26, 2013, decision in United States v. Windsor, which struck down the portion of DOMA that prohibited federal laws from recognizing the legal marriages of same-sex couples. Referring to the DOMA decision, Judge Jones said: "Following the Court's ruling, the term 'Spouse' is no longer unconstitutionally restricted to members of the opposite sex, but now rightfully includes those same-sex spouses in 'otherwise valid marriages.'"

Judge Jones further ruled that federal laws "establish a floor for privately sponsored employee benefit plans with respect to spousal benefits. ... Today's holding makes clear … that Windsor leveled the floor."

"I am overjoyed that the court has said my marriage to Ellyn deserves the same respect as everyone else's," said Tobits. "Nothing can ever replace Ellyn, but it's a great tribute to her that the courts have rejected these challenges to our marriage and recognized our commitment to each other and the life we built together."

The couple married in Toronto in 2006 and lived in Chicago. Two weeks after their wedding, Farley was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of cancer. The couple fought the disease together for four years until September 2010, when Farley passed away. She was 37.

Shortly after her death, Farley's parents told her employer, Cozen O'Connor, that they should receive their daughter's death benefits under the firm's profit-sharing plan. Tobits also requested that she receive the benefits because she was the surviving spouse. In January 2011, Cozen O'Connor filed an action in the federal district court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to determine whether Tobits or Farley's parents should receive the benefits.

Cozen O'Connor argued in the lawsuit that DOMA prevented the firm from recognizing Farley's marriage and treating Tobits as a surviving spouse. Farley's parents also claimed that the Cozen O'Connor profit sharing plan was prohibited from recognizing Tobits as a surviving spouse. Today, the court rejected both of those arguments and ruled that federal law requires the plan to recognize Tobits as the surviving spouse.

National Center for Lesbian Rights Legal Director Shannon Minter, who is representing Tobits, said: "Today's decision is not only a victory for Jennifer and Ellyn, it is a victory for every married same-sex couple in the country. No longer can employers hide behind DOMA to deny equal benefits to some employees solely because their spouse is a person of the same sex."

Attorney Teresa Renaker, who also represents Tobits, added: "This decision makes clear that federal pension law protects same-sex spouses just as it does opposite-sex spouses. Under the rationale of this decision, employees can be confident that their hard-earned retirement benefits will be there for their spouses. Protecting the retirement security of spouses is an important part of ensuring that employees get equal benefits from their retirement plans."

Lambda Legal Issues Same-sex Couples Guide

In the wake of the US Supreme Court's historic decision to strike down Section Three of the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), 11 national LGBT advocacy organizations jointly issued a series of factsheets to provide guidance to same-sex couples and their families as they navigate accessing federal rights, benefits, and protections.

"After DOMA: What it Means For You" LGBT Organizations Fact Sheet Series details many of the ways federal agencies accord legal respect to married same-sex couples. The guide includes 14 factsheets on the following topics: Bankruptcy, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Federal Employee Benefits, Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Immigration, Medicaid, Medicare, Military Spousal Benefits, Private Employment Benefits, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Taxes, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Veteran Spousal Benefits.

"This is an exciting time and an historic step forward for the country. We want to make sure that same-sex couples have a guide to help them understand what it means for them," said Susan Sommer, Director of Constitutional Litigation for Lambda Legal. "Whether you are a federal employee, a student , a veteran, immigrating, or in need of public assistance benefits, this series of factsheets can offer information about which federal rights, benefits, and protections may be available to you and your same-sex spouse, and how you can help protect your family."

There are more than 1,100 places in federal law where a protection or responsibility is based on marital status. The ruling

striking down DOMA will not be effective until 25 days from the decision, but even when effective, federal agencies - large bureaucracies - may need and take some time to change forms, implement procedures, train personnel, and efficiently incorporate same-sex couples into the spousal-based system.

Until same-sex couples can marry in every state in the nation, there will be uncertainty about the extent to which same-sex spouses will receive federal marital-based protections nationwide. For federal programs that assess marital status based on the law of a state that does not respect marriages of same-sex couples, those state laws will likely pose obstacles for legally married couples and surviving spouses in accessing federal protections and responsibilities.

The fact sheets are intended to provide general information regarding major areas of federal marriage-based rights and protections offered by federal agencies. Before making a decision, it is essential that same-sex couples consult an attorney for individualized legal advice. People must make careful decisions when and where to marry, even as advocates work towards equality.

The fact sheet series produced together by: American Civil Liberties Union, Center for American Progress, Family Equality Council, Freedom to Marry, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, Human Rights Campaign, Immigration Equality, Lambda Legal, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and OutServe-SLDN.

Fact sheets available: http://www.lambdalegal.org/publications/after-doma

Debut Author: Who the Hell is Rachel Wells?

Now available from Chelsea Station Editions *Who the Hell is Rachel Wells?* is a debut collection of short fiction by J.R. Greenwell, former Miss Gay American 1979.

Available in paperback and digital editions, the collection introduces clever, big-hearted tales of spunky souls and damaged hearts. Both serious and silly, bittersweet and joyous, these unique eleven short stories introduce a wise and wonderful new author.

Meet

…Ermina and Dante, two fierce drag queens who teach a runaway teenager to sashay like RuPaul

…Anna Folanna, a one-time burlesque star held hostage wearing men's boxer shorts

…David Stoner, who still regrets his mother tossing away his collection of Barbie dolls

…Victor, a campus professor haunted by a funky jockstrap

…Greg and Erica, a normal suburban couple who inherit an unusual chair formerly owned by Paul Lynde

…and Daphne, the almost-winning drag queen whose ultimate goal is to emerge from the waves of Daytona Beach like Ursula Andress

…but who the hell is Rachel Wells?

Gay iconic writer Felice Picano says of the collection: "J.R. Greenwell does a lovely job of relaying the comic as well as tragicomic aspects of the over-the-top dramatic world of drag queens, and he nails it exactly."

In the 1970's, J.R. Greenwell was a premiere headliner for many years at the Sweet Gum Head in Atlanta, GA, and performed as a female illusionist across the country. He later earned a Masters of Education at the University of Louisville, and now devotes his time as a queer writer creating plays and prose at his home in central Kentucky.

Other titles are available from Chelsea Station Editions which was founded in 2010 to fill a growing void of independent presses devoted to

gay literature. Among the authors the press has published are debut writers Craig Moreau, Michael Graves, Jeffrey Luscombe, Gil Cole, William Sterling Walker, and David Pratt, and veterans Felice Picano, Walter Holland, Jon Marans, Charles Silverstein, Wesley Gibson, and Jameson Currier. In November 2011, the press launched Chelsea Station, a new magazine of gay writing.

25th Annual Harrisburg Gallery Walk Burns Brightly

Headlining at the 25th Annual Harrisburg Gallery Walk Sun., Sept. 8, is "pyrographic" artist Walker Babington, who will give a demonstration of his unique medium in the Art Association's garden from 1-2 p.m.

Babington will then do an impressive large outdoor event on the Market Street sidewalk in front of Whitaker Center, 5- 7:30 p.m. as a grand finale. Babington's series "Art Brulee" will be presented on the Curved Wall Gallery of Whitaker Centre for Science and the Arts through the end of October.

Besides the extravaganza at Whitaker Centre for Gallery Walk, 27 other exhibition sites will welcome visitors from 11-6 p.m. Sept. 8, most with light refreshments and live music. An addition this year is a Shuttle Service between Downtown, Midtown and Uptown key locations provided by Sutliff Chevrolet. The gallery walk is a free event.

As in past years, gallery walkers are encouraged to begin their trek at The Art Association of Harrisburg, 21 N. Front St., where the Fall Membership Exhibition "Literary Allusions" will premier with a reception hosted by Board member Alice Anne Schwab, and lively music by the Melina Blackwell Duo.

From AAH head south on Front Street to The John Harris/Simon Cameron Mansion, 219 S. Front, to enjoy a collection of 1920's vintage clothing. From there head to St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral's Mission Gallery, 221 N. Front, and then head to McKissick Associates Architects, 317 N. Front, to see Matthew Christopher's series "Abandoned America." Next stroll over to Market Square to view Kirby Heltebridle's landscapes on view at Penn National Insurance's handsome lobby.

Visit Whitaker Center next to see Walker Babington's work, and then stroll to 231 Chestnut to view paintings by Deborah Peters, R.Sawan White, Kate Withers, and Leah Koontz at the historic Salem United Church of Christ. Back at Strawberry Square, stop at Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School to view the 5th Annual CASA Alumni Art Exhibition. At The Gallery at Walnut Place, 413 Walnut St., a collection of fine porcelain will be showcased. Alan Wycheck 's Studio A, 106 State Street, will be a new entity on Gallery Walk this year with stained and fused glass by the late Mike Johnson and jewelry by Wycheck.

Gallery@Second, 608 N. Second St., will feature works by Linda Benton McCloskey and Deborah Tritt. Pine Street Presbyterian Church, 310 N. Third, will again display works by local mixed media artists.

Mangia Qui and Suba , 272 North St.,will offer brunch in the restaurant as well as art by Joanne Landis and Elide Hower Silva. At the State Museum of Pennsylvania The Annual Art of the State will be on view, as well at an exhibit presented by Susquehanna Art Museum's Doshi Gallery– "Construction/Destruction. "SAM's "Art VanGo" will be parked nearby for tours. STASH, 234 North St., and City House B&B, 915 N. Front, are both new additions this year. The City House B&B will present works by The Susquehanna Valley Plein Air Painters, as well as outdoor painting demonstrations. Historic Harrisburg Association, 1230 N. Third, will present creations by The Capital Area Modern Quilt Guild.

Up the street at 1302 N. Third, The Midtown Scholar Bookstore & Café, The Yellow Wall Gallery, and Robinson's Rare Books & Fine Prints Micro Gallery will all welcome Gallery Walkers with a variety of artists and musical performances. Another "newbie" is the LGBT Gallery, 1306 N. Third, which will present Kristen Kest's artwork, Yellow Bird Café at 1320 N. Third will showcase works by Nancy Soulliard. Fenetre Gallery at HACC, Midtown 2, 1500 N. Third, is next to visit, featuring "The Great Indoors," paintings by Erika Stearly. At Char's at Tracey Mansion, 1829 N. Front, there will be a five-artist show and sale in the restaurant and sculpture garden, with paintings, hand-blown glass, jewelry and multi-media. Little Amps Coffee Roasters, 1836 Green St., is the next stop, followed by MakeSpace where all are invited to join the resident artists in celebrating their first year, with open studios, live music and original artwork.

Last but certainly not least on the Gallery Walk map is The Governor's Residence, 2035 N. Front St., where paintings will be on view from the American Kennel Club, as well as artists painting en plein air in the lovely gardens.

Walking to all these many locations would be a daunting challenge, so attendees are urged to either drive for part of the itinerary, take the Sutliff Chevrolet shuttle, or to call Harrisburg Bike Taxis to engage a ride. To enliven the distances between galleries, "No Last Call," Harrisburg's only hit-and-run street band, will be playing along the Gallery Walk route, as they did last year.

Visit www.artassocofhbg.com to view the Gallery Walk flyer and map, or stop in at any participating gallery to pick up the brochure. Gallery Walk is sponsored by PennLive/The Patriot News, WHTM-TV27, Sutliff Chevrolet, and WXPN, and is supported by all the participating galleries. Call The Art Association of Harrisburg at 717-236-1432 for more information.

St@rtUp Offers Co-working Space

Adam Porter and Adam Brackbill, co-founders of St@rtUp, 1519 N. 3rd St.
Harrisburg, recently hosted the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. The new business provides "co-working space" on a rental basis. Info: (717) 743-1091; f (717) 889-1875; www.startuphbg.com.

Zimbabwean President: Arrest Gays Who Don't Conceive Children

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has said authorities should arrest gays and lesbians who don't conceive children. "I should like to shut them-up in some room and see if they get pregnant; if they don't then it's jail because they have claimed they can have children," Mugabe was quoted as saying. "Obama said he wished that we in Africa accepted gay marriages," Mugabe said. "Parents, tell your children that we are against gay marriage." He previously described gay men and lesbians as "dogs and pigs." LGBTQ Nation reported Mugabe said during a recent speech he gave at a Zimbabwe Roman Catholic-run teacher's college that gays and lesbians "should rot in jail," suggesting the country's anti-homosexuality laws are too lenient.

Gay Rights Activist Found Dead

In Dakar, Senegal, a rights group says a prominent gay rights activist in Cameroon has been tortured and killed just weeks after issuing a public warning about the threat posed by "anti-gay thugs." Human Rights Watch has said that friends discovered the body of Eric Ohena Lembembe, his neck and feet appeared looked broken and that he had been burned with an iron. Lembembe was executive director of CAMFAIDS, a human rights organization. In a July 1 statement, he condemned recent break-ins by "anti-gay thugs" at the offices of groups advocating for gay rights.

Tricky Dick?

A new book by ex-White House reporter Don Fulsom claims that President Richard Nixon was a mobbed-up drunk who beat the First Lady and may have had a decades-long gay affair with dashing Cuban-American playboy Charles (Bebe) Rebozo, a shady Miami-area businessman.

In the shocking new biography "Nixon's Darkest Secrets: The Inside Story of America's Most Troubled President," Fulsom, a former United Press International Washington bureau chief, writes that Tricky Dick had mob ties for more than 20 years before he was elected in 1968 and lusted after his best pal Rebozo.

The Feds believed Rebozo laundered money for mob kingpins in Florida and Cuba.

Nixon and his guy pal swam, sunbathed and dined together during guys-only vacations in exclusive Key Biscayne, FL. They were once spotted holding hands under the table during a dinner with K Street power brokers, according to a report on the book in the Daily Mail.

Another Washington reporter told Fulsom that he once spotted a boozy Nixon nuzzling Rebozo "the way you'd cuddle your senior prom date."

The pair's friendship was no secret to Washington insiders, and the book claims that there were whispers that the two were more than just pals up until Nixon's death in 1994. Rebozo was by his side. He died four years later.

The Nixon Foundation has not commented on the book.

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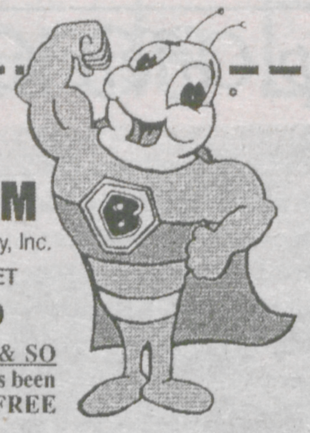

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"The Front Runner" Film Rights Up for Grabs

Following on the heels of the recent Cannes Palme d'Or Award going to lesbian love story Blue is the Warmest Color, the tremendous success of HBO's original film Behind the Candelabra and Wednesday's Supreme Court ruling, Patricia Nell Warren has gained back all the film and television rights to her New York Times best-seller "The Front Runner."

Now that Warren is once again the sole owner of the rights, she is looking for the right producer.

First published in 1974, "The Front Runner" was a ground-breaking novel ahead of its time. Paul Newman optioned the film rights in 1975 and over the years, the story has been picked up by several well-known producers. This past year, Warren dissolved the partnership with her long-time business partner thus completing her process of reclaiming sole ownership and control of the film and television rights.

"It's been a long race to get to this point with 'The Front Runner,'" commented Warren. "However, I believe that the time is finally right for the story to be translated to film and for audiences to really embrace it the way it was meant to be embraced."

"The Front Runner" has a built-in global audience. It has been published in 11 languages with book sales at well over 10 million copies worldwide and has never been out of print. It was the first gay-themed novel to make the prestigious New York Times bestseller's list and the first gay themed novel to actually print the word "gay" on the cover. The book inspired an international organization of running and walking clubs dubbed The International FrontRunners. Outsports.com named the publication of the book the #4 moment in their list of 100 Greatest Moments in Gay Sports History and as recently as this year, Warren was named a "Pioneer" of LGBT literature by the Lambda Literary Foundation.

"The Front Runner" takes place in the 1970s, in a time when the U.S. is exploding with change. Ex-Marine Harlan Brown, 39, is a hard-shell conservative and coaches track at a small obscure college. Brown has given up his dream of coaching Olympic athletes and buried himself there because he's gay and in the closet. His fear of exposure was the reason why he had left a more prestigious job at Penn State. Coaching big-time athletes might bring attention to his private life and his secret.

A bombshell is dropped when he has the chance to coach distance runner Billy Sive, 22. Billy is talented, with Olympic potential, but he's destroying himself with incorrect training. He's also gay and his plans to "come out" in that grand manner of the new generation are unknown to Harlan. Brown reluctantly agrees to coach Sive. But as he argues about the training with his protege, he's horrified to find they are falling in love with each other. As rumors about a relationship between the two men start spreading, the moralistic elements in the sports world make it clear that they'll stop at nothing to keep Sive and his coach from representing America at the Olympic Games.

Patricia Nell Warren has written and published professionally since 1954. In 59 years, the subjects of her books and articles have ranged from women and Goddess Earth to human rights; from gay life to wildlife; from the environment to current events. Now 77 years old, she was born in 1936 and raised on a Montana ranch. She worked as a Reader's Digest book editor for 15 years, on both the magazine staff and the Condensed Book Club. Today Warren lives in Glendale, CA, where she owns an independent book-publishing and media company, Wildcat International and Wildcat Press.

Warren followed "The Front Runner" with two critically-acclaimed and best-selling sequels -- "Harlan's Race" and "Billy's Boy." Currently, Warren has published a total of 10 boo ks and is writing the fourth and final sequel to "The Front Runner." sue@spprinc.com

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NJ Launches Marriage Initiative

New Jersey (NJ) United for Marriage, a broad-based campaign supporting the lifetime promise of love, commitment and responsibility for all New Jersey residents, launch July 24. Partners are Garden State Equality; American Civil Liberties Union of NJ; American Unity Fund; Freedom to Marry; Gill Action Fund; the Human Rights Campaign; and Lambda Legal. "The issue at hand is simple," said Jeff Cook-McCormac, Senior Advisor to American Unity Fund. "We're here because we believe that it's not government's proper role to interfere with someone's happiness. Government must not limit our freedoms, including our freedom to marry the person we love."

Gender Rights Maryland Advances Goal

Gender Rights Maryland (GRMD), reports significant progress in assuring fair and equal implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for transgender Marylanders. As part of the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange (MHBE), the ACA requires that the MHBE be administered in such a manner as to prevent discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation, and, just as importantly, assess progress in providing access to care and compile data reflecting any disparities encountered, on an annual basis. The Governor's Office of Healthcare Reform, the Health Benefits Exchange, and the Maryland Insurance Commissioner are now reviewing the plans to ensure full and equal access to care for transgender individuals.

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Ask Dr. del Sol:

Q: My parents had heart disease, and very bad teeth – is there a relationship between the two?

Tammy del Sol: There are more and more studies showing links between periodontal disease (the oral infection of your gums and the bone that supports your teeth) and heart disease. "Bad teeth" can be defined many ways – but if you mean that they had many teeth extracted because they eventually became loose and infected, then your folks probably were dealing with perio disease. Bacteria that causes perio disease, courses through your blood stream. Researchers have discovered that the periodontal disease-causing bacteria is the same bacteria lined in the arteries of people with heart disease. So yes, there is a link. The exact pathway or relationship between the two is not clear yet. *(Check out more, at WebMD.com)*

Q: I don't want to have heart disease. Are you saying that if I brush and floss I won't get heart disease?

TdS: No, I am not saying that. What I am saying is that there is a link between the two diseases. The verdict is still out on exactly how they are tied to each other. It's kind of like the chicken and the egg mystery. But let's look at it this way: Why contribute to heart disease if we don't have to?? Brush several times a day. Thoroughly. Get a water pik and use it, every day. Eliminate as much bacteria from getting into your blood stream as possible. See your dentist at least twice a year for regular exams and hygiene appointments. Ask them how good a job you are doing with your home care. Ask them to give you tips on how you can do a better job.

Q: My parents had dentures. I guess after you lose all your teeth, you don't have to worry about all that nasty periodontal bacteria in your bloodstream anymore.

TdS: Guess again. I can't tell you how many folks I see who have dentures or partials who do not know how to properly clean them. As a result, those people still have tons of bacteria coursing through their bloodstream from all the debris and plaque left on those dentures. Even though someone may have full dentures, it is still important for them to come in and see their dentist at least once a year so that we can make sure they are taking good care of their denture and cleaning it well. We also like to do a oral cancer screening at that time and make sure everything looks good. Oral cancers, suspicious lesions may still occur after someone gets dentures. Always better safe than sorry.

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